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Temples closed following entry of Dalit youth

CHIKKAMAGALURU
The residents of Gollarahatti at Gerumaradi village in Tarikere taluk have closed two temples in their locality following the entry of a Dalit into their habitat. » Page 10

Registrations low for Yuva Nidhi

BENGALURU
As the State government readies to launch Yuva Nidhi, financial assistance scheme for unemployed graduate and diploma holders, on January 12 at Shivamogga, efforts are on to register more eligible candidates under the scheme.

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8 Indians get 60 days to contest Qatar jail terms

MEA confirms that the death penalty of Navy veterans has been commuted, says they now face 'varying quantum' of prison terms; Indian Embassy gets consular access to the men in custody

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

Qatar has commuted the death sentence for eight Indian Navy veterans and turned that into "varying quantum" of jail terms, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Thursday, putting out the official confirmation about the high-profile case regarding the men who were arrested by the Gulf country in August 2022.

Addressing the weekly press briefing, Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said the legal team had been given 60 days to appeal against the jail terms.

Court verdict

"On December 28, the Court of Appeal in Qatar gave a verdict in which the death sentence was commuted and replaced with varying quantum of jail terms. Our legal team has received the copy of the court's order which is a confidential document. But I can confirm that the death sentence has been removed," Mr. Jaiswal added.

The case came to prominence because of strict secrecy that Qatar and India have maintained regarding the proceedings that took place over the past several months.

India was "deeply shocked" when a trial court in Qatar handed the death sentence to the accused on October 26.

In the meanwhile, officials here said that the Indian Embassy in Qatar had got consular access to the men in custody.

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Trial in Qatar

A brief timeline of the case involving eight former Indian Navy officers, who were working at a defence services provider company in Qatar

SOLIDARITY WALK
BRING BACK CDR SUGUNAKAR PAKALA & 7 OTHER EX NAVAL OFFICERS QATAR
SOLIDARITY WALK
BRING BACK CDR SUGUNAKAR PAKALA & 7 OTHER EX NAVAL OFFICERS QATAR

Seeking release: A solidarity walk being taken out in Visakhapatnam in support of the former Naval officers held in Qatar. FILE PHOTO

30 Aug. 2022: They are arrested by Qatar authorities

26 Oct. 2023: Qatar's Court of First Instance sentences all of them to death

28 Dec. 2023: A Qatari appellate court drops the death sentence

The eight: Captain Navtej Singh Gill, Captain Birendra Kumar Verma, Captain Saurabh Vasisht, Commander Amit Nagpal, Commander Purnendu Tiwari, Commander Sugunakar Pakala, Commander Sanjeev Gupta and Sailor Ragesh

Iran vows revenge after biggest attack since 1979

Reuters
Agence France-Presse
TEHRAN/DUBAI

Iran's elite Revolutionary Guards and first Vice-President Mohammad Mokhber vowed revenge on Thursday for explosions that killed at least 84 at a ceremony to commemorate top commander Qassem Soleimani, who was killed by a U.S. drone in Iraq in 2020.

Iranian authorities on Thursday revised down an earlier toll from the explosions to 84.

"A very strong retaliation will be handed to them on the hands of the soldiers of Soleimani," Mr. Mokhber told reporters at a hospital were some of the wounded were receiving treatment for the bloodiest attack since the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

Islamic State has claimed responsibility for the attack. Earlier, a senior official in U.S. President Joe Biden's administration said the blasts appeared to represent "a terrorist attack" of the type carried out in the past by Islamic State militants.

Grave loss: People injured in the twin blasts are helped outside a hospital in the southern Iranian city of Kerman on Wednesday. AFP

'Cowardly act'

In a statement, Iran's powerful Guards described Wednesday's attack as a cowardly act "aimed at creating insecurity and seeking revenge against the nation's deep love and devotion to the Islamic Republic".

The Guards also said the attack "strengthens the resolve to decisively and justly punish the perpetrators".

Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi condemned the "heinous and inhumane crime", and Iran's top authority, Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei, vowed revenge for the twin bombings.

However, second-rung officials blamed the U.S. and Israel for the attacks.

'Modi' remark: Khera gets no relief from SC

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday declined a plea by Congress leader Pawan Khera to quash criminal proceedings instituted against him for allegedly calling Prime Minister "Narendra Gautam Das Modi" at a press conference in Mumbai.

"Wishing away an offence, is that possible?" Justice Sandeep Mehta, a member of the Bench headed by Justice B.R. Gavai, asked senior advocate Salman Khurshid, appearing for Mr. Khera.

Justice Gavai said the Allahabad High Court had refused to quash the case after considering the chargesheet, "you go on seeking apology after apology".

The press meet by Mr. Khera, during which he made the alleged remarks against Mr. Modi, was called to seek a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) probe into the U.S.-based Hindenburg Research's report against the Adani Group.

FIRs clubbed

On March 20 last year, the Supreme Court had clubbed FIRs in Assam and Varanasi against the Congress leader and transferred them to the Hazratganj police in Lucknow.

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MCC to admit boys to all UG and PG courses

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The management of Mount Carmel College (Autonomous) on Thursday announced that all the undergraduate and postgraduate courses would henceforth be open even for boys. The college has invited applications from all eligible students for the upcoming academic year. The college opened some PG courses for boys in 2015, but this is the first time all courses have been thrown open to boys as well.

"The management decided to open admission for boys to support the institution's plans and ensure greater diversity on campus," said Suma Singh, Registrar of Academics at Mount Carmel College.

However, this is not the first time the educational institution will offer admission for boys. In 2015, the college sought and received permission from the Bangalore University Academic Council to admit male students.

"In 2016, the management opened a couple of postgraduate programmes for male students. As of now, we have 19 boys on campus. Now, boys can apply to all the undergraduate and postgraduate programmes," Ms. Singh said. The college currently offers around 45 undergraduate courses and 21 postgraduate courses.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 4

Y.S. Sharmila joins Cong., braces for head-on battle with brother Jagan

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

Thirteen years after the Congress lost loyal voters, leaders and a significant organisational structure in Andhra Pradesh due to a split engineered by the current Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy, the party is making a bid to recoup its losses by inducting his sister Y.S. Sharmila, daughter of the late legendary Congress CM Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy.

After months of speculation, Ms. Sharmila, founder of the YSR Telangana Party, joined the Congress on Thursday in the presence of party chief Mallikarjun Kharge and former party president Rahul Gandhi. She later met Congress Parliamentary Party chairperson Sonia Gandhi and also announced the merger of her fledgling party with the Congress.

New entrant: Y. S. Sharmila meets Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and party leaders Rahul Gandhi and K.C. Venugopal at the AICC headquarters in New Delhi on Thursday. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Calling the Congress the "biggest secular" party in the country, Ms. Sharmila said that her father – popularly known as YSR – would have approved of her decision. "It was my father's dream to see Rahul Gandhi as Prime Minister of our country and I am very glad that I am going to be a part in making that happen. Whatever responsibility the Congress will lay on me, I promise to fulfil that responsibility with all loyalty, integrity and diligence," Ms. Sharmila said.

According to sources, Ms. Sharmila faces pressure to take on the mantle of the party's state president in Andhra Pradesh, pitching her into a head-on battle with her elder brother, the State's CM and chief of the YSR Congress.

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Everything still up for grabs for unpredictable Arsenal despite the recent stumble

The pragmatic fan may not worry much with nearly half a season still to play, but the superstitious ones have already started bringing up analogies from last season where the team ended runner-up despite spending 248 days on top and at one point needing only 26 points from 10 games to seal the title

REUTERS

Vighnesh P. Venkitesh

Arsenal fans are going through an unpleasant sense of *deja vu*. With their team leading the pack in the English Premier League, although with a small margin, the Gunners and their fans had a very merry Christmas. But it was not a happy New Year as Arsenal fell to fourth within the span of two match days. While the pragmatic fan may not worry with nearly half a season still to play, the superstitious ones have already started to bring up analogies with last season where the team ended runner-up despite spending 248 days on top and at one point needing only 26 points from 10 games to seal the title.

Arsenal has been flying through major turbulence for quite a few seasons. The once scary, invincible, team under the legendary Arsene Wenger playing with the likes of Thierry Henry, Patrick Viera and Dennis Bergkamp has had a few forgettable seasons in the recent past, including being out of the UEFA Champions League for six of them, before returning to the high table this edition.

Everyone wished, hoped and even believed that the Gunners' misery was at an end after seeing the team's dream run last season under beloved former player Mikel Arteta, who learnt the tricks and trade of managing under Pep Guardiola at Manchester City. He took over from one of the most underrated managers in modern football – Unai Emery – who failed to make his mark at the Emirates, losing the support of fans and the board alike. Arteta and his crop of youngsters led by 25-year-old Norwegian Martin Odegaard, who was on Real Madrid's books in his teens and labelled a wonderkid, took the world by surprise with their antics last season.

Only six top-flight teams in the history of English football had amassed more points by the halfway mark than Arsenal's haul of 50 last season. But after gaining an eight-point lead at the top after trashing Leeds 4-1 at the beginning of April last year, the youngsters crumbled. The tiniest of errors was enough for Manchester City – known for its strong and almost perfect season finishes – to turn the screws, building pressure and ultimately clinching the league.

Guardiola had, at one point, admitted there was nothing his team could do to stop Arsenal on the form they were in. All City and Guardiola could do was hold on to hope and wait for a slip up from the leaders, a moment they could capitalise on. And slip up they did.

The key period was a run of three games in April when Arsenal threw away two-goal leads at Liverpool and West Ham to draw 2-2, then dropped more points after a chaotic 3-3 draw at home to last-placed Southampton. Then came a 4-1 dismantling by City at the Etihad that marked a reality check for Arsenal and its young players, whose belief might have started to fade. And with the psychological advantage gained after humbling their direct rivals for the title, it was all too easy for the experienced City squad to keep their heads cool and seal the title with three matchdays to spare.

Albeit being a notoriously memorable

The way Arsenal fell away doesn't come close to the most famous meltdown in England – by Newcastle in 1995-96

and heartbreaking slip up, this was not the first fumble in English league neither the first for Arsenal. The way Arsenal fell away doesn't come close to the most famous title-race meltdown in England – by Newcastle United in the 1995-96 season.

The team managed by Kevin Keegan was 12 points ahead of second placed Manchester United after 23 matchdays. Then it lost five of the next eight, paving the way for Sir Alex Ferguson's side to achieve victory.

Arsenal had in the 2007-08 season maintained a five-point lead at the top of the table at one point, poised to win the league for the first time after its invincible 2004-05 season. But injury to talismanic forward Eduardo Da Silva, who suffered a fractured leg after being tackled in an away game at Birmingham, derailed its campaign and it finished third.

Another famous slip up, although it is justifiably remembered for the heroics of the champions, was when Manchester United lost out on the league after leading City by eight points with six games remaining in 2011-12. United had the title taken away by their neighbour on goal difference after Sergio Aguero's injury time strike. United also led by 11 points with 10 games left in the 1997-98 season, but this time it was Arsenal's moment of triumph as it managed to reel in the Red Devils, securing its first league title under Arsene Wenger.

In 2013-14, Liverpool, seeking its first league trophy since 1990, had a nine-point lead at the top but floundered late in the title race, especially in losing 2-0 at home after the infamous Gerrard-slip in the lead-up to Chelsea's first goal. City won the league in the end, with a two-point margin.

While it is still too early in the season to call Arsenal's dip in form a slip up, there is enough history in the league for fans to start worrying. But it is not just Arsenal, which has managed to let go of opportunities. Tottenham Hotspurs, under new manager Ange Postecoglou, had a flying start with 26 points in the first 10 games. But the team is now fifth after having won just 13 more points over the next 10 games. Then, in November, Manchester City was threatening to run away with the league before finding itself in a mini crisis after just one win in six.

With only six points separating the top five in the table, it is safe to say that the battle for the league is far from over. Liverpool enjoys a three-point lead over Aston Villa, which is going through a magical season under, ironically, Emery. With unpredictability filled in the league's DNA, all is not lost for Arsenal which is five behind Liverpool.

Lessons learnt from past hiccups and hope derived from the fact that comebacks are not impossible, the energy of a youthful core, who have the added experience of last season's fumble and the thirst to make amends for that, Arsenal has everything to fight for in the New Year.

THE GIST

- Only six top-flight teams in the history of English football had amassed more points by the halfway mark than Arsenal's haul of 50 last season
- But after gaining an eight-point lead at the top after thrashing Leeds 4-1 at the beginning of April last year, the youngsters fell apart
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- With unpredictability filled in the league's DNA, all is not lost for Arsenal which is five behind current league leader Liverpool

I will be okay: Djokovic plays down injury concerns ahead of Australian Open

ANI
PERTH

The 24-time Major champion Novak Djokovic lost to Australian Alex de Minaur in the United Cup on Wednesday, his first loss on Australian soil since 2018.

Throughout the match, the Serbian suffered from a wrist ailment and was unable to perform at his peak in the RAC Arena. However, the World No. 1 is unconcerned about where his game and physique are 11 days before the Australian Open begins.

"I knew that probably, [I am] not going to be at 100 per cent physically, emotionally, mentally game-wise in the opening week of a season. Neither did I expect that. I was not on my level, but it was just one of these days where I didn't feel my best on the court, and [my] opponent played very well. That's all I can say," Djokovic said at the post-match press conference.

"I think I'll be okay, to be honest. It did have quite an impact, particularly on the forehand and serve. I have plenty of time, I think enough time to get myself in the right shape for the Australian Open," Djokovic added when asked about his wrist. During the game, Djokovic was treated by the physio and Serbian captain Viktor Troicki. He was unable to turn the tables on de Minaur, who improved to 1-1 in the pair's ATP Head2Head series.

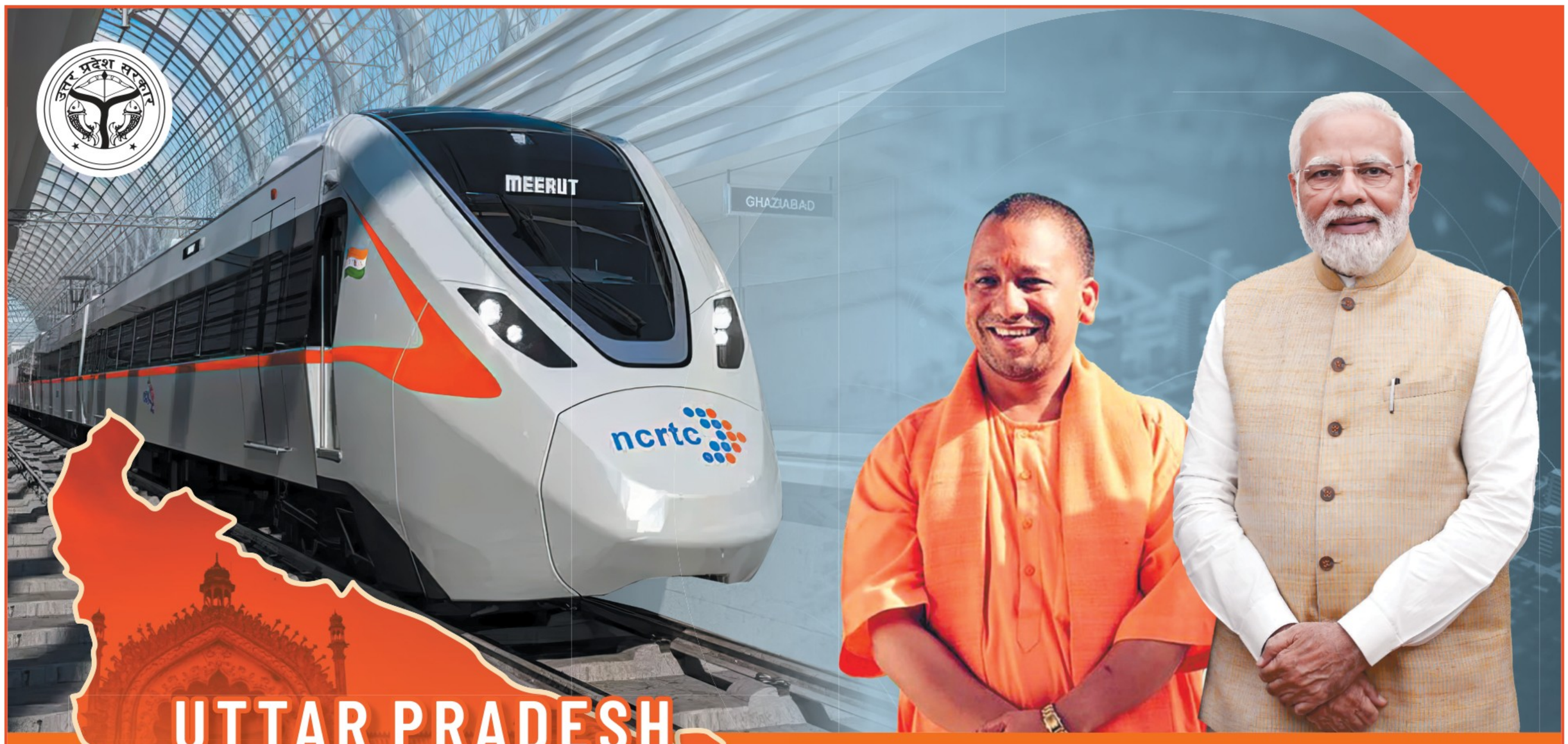
"[I will] just try to recover, with the wrist that I have been struggling with the last couple of days. Just following the routine of recovery and training and building the form for the Australian Open," Djokovic said."The process is not strange to me. It's not unusual. I've been in this kind of situation so many times and I know what I need to do along with my team to get myself ready," he added.

"The last two years I've been injured just before the Australian Open, and managed to win both Australian Opens. Sorry, the last two out of three years, 2021 and '23. I hope that I will not be injured this time around. That's what we're going to work on, to get my body in the right shape, optimal state, so that I can perform at the high level throughout hopefully the entire Australian Open," said the Serb.

Djokovic won singles matches in the United Cup over Zhang Zhizhen and Jiri Lehecka, helping Serbia reach the quarter-finals of the 18-country mixed-teams event. The 36-year-old is thrilled to have begun the season with a national team appearance.

"This kind of atmosphere is really unique. Being in a team with both men and women tennis players from your country is something you don't get to experience either playing Davis Cup or Billie Jean King Cup for women. So, this is probably the only competition where you can experience that mix, which is an official competition where you get points," Djokovic said.

AP



UTTAR PRADESH
THE STATE OF
SMART CITIES

Smart City
MISSION TRANSFORM-NATION

Urban Facilitation centres established across the state to facilitate citizen's for easy access to government services.

Formation of Emergency Response sanitation Unit to assist Safai Mitras in cleaning sewers and septic tanks.

Preparation of GIS-based master plan in progress in 59 cities and GIS-based property tax management system in 15 municipal corporations under AMRUT yojana.

17,65,771 houses sanctioned under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) for UP. Out of these, 13,93,326 houses completed.

Noida authority to build 35 KM. elevated highway along Yamuna River to decongest the existing Noida-Greater Noida link expressway.

Noida Metro Rail corporation (NMRC) submits DPR of 11.5 Km Aqua Line extension to connect NMRC with DMRC services.

- **UP ranks third** in **India Smart Cities Awards Contest**. State emerges as Achiever State in 10 Categories at **India Smart Cities Conclave-2023**.
- Varanasi is the top smart city in the North Zone. **Agra and Varanasi** rank among top 10 smart cities in the country.
- 1 0 cities in UP are part of the central government initiative of 100 smart cities project. These are **Agra, Aligarh, Bareilly, Jhansi, Kanpur, Lucknow, Moradabad, Prayagraj, Saharanpur** and **Varanasi**.
- Under the Smart City Mission, 670 projects of worth **Rs. 29,313 crore** are under progress in 10 cities.
- UP is the first state to introduce its state-funded Smart Cities Mission. Seven cities covered under the State Smart City Scheme are-**Firozabad, Gorakhpur, Ghaziabad, Mathura-Vrindavan, Meerut** and **Shahjahanpur.**
- Under Amrut Yojana, **157 projects of drinking water, 84 of sewerage**, 530 of green land & parks have been completed, work on 91 projects under progress.
- **Mukhyamantri Nagar Srijan Yojana** operational for providing basic facilities in newly created/ extended/ upgraded municipal bodies.
- Aspirational City Plan launched for overall development of **100 Aspirational Municipal Bodies**.
- **100 professionals** appointed as CM Fellows in Aspirational Urban Bodies.
- 9 lakh individual toilets and **69,381 community** and public toilets constructed in urban areas across the state.
- **1,100 pink toilets** constructed in civic bodies. Cleanliness campaign conducted at 75 tourist & historical places in the state.
- UP Government making **rapid strides** in developing industrial cities along expressways.
- Government decided to establish Modern cities like NOIDA in **Purvanchal** and **Bundelkhand** regions.
- UP goverment approved establishment of a new industrial city in an area of about **14,000 hectares** near Jhansi.
- UP government expedites installation of **open-air gyms** in public parks across the **state to offer state-of-the art amenities** to citizens.
- Government sanctions development fund for Navya Ayodhya. A new greenfield township to be developed in **1,400 acres area** in Ayodhya.
- Moradabad to soon appear on air services map as DGCA grants Aerodrome License to **Moradabad airport**.
- Metro rail services operational in **Noida, Greater Noida, Ghaziabad, Lucknow, Kanpur** and **Agra.**
- Safe City Project is being implemented in **17 Municipal Corporations and Gautam Buddha Nagar**.
- Construction of the first **Rapid Rail Service** nearing completion. Stretching between Sahibabad & Duhai in Ghaziabad already operational. Trial run between Duhai and Meerut South to be conducted soon.
- Feasibility survey for a new rapid rail link between **Ghaziabad** and **Jewar airport** approved. New link to originate at Ghaziabad station on Delhi-Meerut RRTS and reach Jewar via Greater Noida West, Surajpur and Pari Chowk.
- Tata Power EV Charging Solutions, signs MoU with the Kanpur Municipal Corporation to install **12 EV charging stations**.
- To encourage **e-Mobility** in Kanpur, Adani Total Energies E-Mobility Ltd. enters MoU with Kanpur municipal corporation.
- **E-nagar** service implemented in all urban bodies for the convenience of the general public.

Information & Public Relations Department, Uttar Pradesh

A BG-BGE

How conflict frustrates the delivery of health care

As news of violence in Manipur enters the headlines again, here's a look at what medical professional are facing given meagre resources, lack of medical records, and the threat of violence always hanging over their heads

Christianez Rathna Kiruba

Conflict in Manipur is exposing the displaced population to health issues. File photo shows protesters obstructing an ambulance. PTI

"Once the conflict started, my wife and I had to leave our jobs as healthcare providers in Imphal almost overnight", recounts a doctor from the Kuki community. He agreed to speak only if his identity was protected. All healthcare professionals who shared their opinions wanted the same protection. Though this doctor had been working for Jawaharlal Nehru Institute of Medical Sciences (a premier government institution located in Imphal) since the start of his medical career, his need for safety eventually overcame his loyalty to his institution.

"The problem currently is that both JNIMS and RIMS (Regional Institute of Medical Sciences) – the only centres offering tertiary healthcare services are located in Imphal. Patients in need of services such as ICU care and dialysis cannot be referred to these hospitals, especially if they belong to the Kuki community. We end up sending patients who need advanced care to Nagaland – either Dimapur or Kohima," he adds.

After all that has happened over the previous months, the doctor still misses a time when people worked together. "The worst is that I am not in touch at all with my colleagues", says the Kuki doctor. "We had good camaraderie at work. Now there is so much distrust that we all keep to ourselves worried and fearful. Sometimes when we needed a hand managing a case or an opinion, all we needed to do was call someone we knew who could help. That is no more possible."

"The healthcare infrastructure in Manipur is such that all the good hospitals, private or public are concentrated in Imphal. The other districts are very underserved, their district hospitals lack specialists and infrastructure," says an anaesthesiologist who also quit his job in Imphal. "For example, Kangpokpi district hospital is operated solely by district medical officers who are MBBS graduates. There is no operation theatre, blood storage facility etc. there. It functions more like a community health centre than a district hospital. And this is true of all other districts in Manipur," he says. But what is new is that the conflict has uncovered disparities because large hordes of people are being displaced from Imphal and some are moving to severely under-equipped areas. "This has overloaded an already weak system. District medical officers are now called to work inhumane hours and to attend to a heavy workload without the tools to do so."

According to this doctor, many specialists have left Manipur because of the threat of violence which has also exacerbated the healthcare problem. "Only a handful of MBBS graduates are managing everything on the public health front. I never imagined that there would be a day when it would be difficult to find even an MBBS doctor."

Adding to this is the fact that according to NHFS-4 data, only 3.6% of Manipuri households have health insurance. Most people in Manipur need to pay for much of their health care needs from their own pockets. Coupled with weak public infrastructure which may drive them to seek private sector services and the economic liabilities created by the ongoing conflict, this is a serious concern for people living in Manipur.

"We used to source a lot of medicine from Imphal", says the Kuki doctor, currently working in one of the other districts. "We even arranged blood from there. Now, however, the patient's name dictates whether or not they will receive blood. Their Aadhar details will be checked before anything is given to them," he says. "In any case the logistics of transporting medical supplies from Imphal have gone haywire," says the anesthesiologist. "We are trying to get supplies from other states."

In September, a team of doctors visited relief camps in Manipur. Their assessment of the health situation was grim. Overcrowding, lack of good nutrition, reduced access to clean drinking water were all visible. It could potentially become a breeding ground for infectious diseases. Lack of privacy and supplies for menstrual hygiene were also observed.

The doctors recommended vaccination against measles, administration of oral Vitamin A supplements as well as improving living conditions and nutrition in the camps. In reality this is difficult to achieve because of the paucity of resources. "Most of these camps receive donations from NGOs and other social welfare organisations but the need far outweighs the resources coming in. Some hospitals in the private sector also subsidise care for patients coming from the relief camps but more often than not, it is not enough." One report indicated that relief camps are not receiving any government aid and are being run on donations alone.

> All the good hospitals, private or public are concentrated in Imphal. The other districts are very underserved, their district hospitals lack specialists and infrastructure

According to a postgraduate resident from another State, working in Imphal, many patients with rare autoimmune diseases who would come in from tribal areas to seek medication like monoclonal antibodies have stopped coming. "We used to maintain a list of names under each rare disease to help us keep track of their treatment. Initially, some managed to come with their names changed but eventually, they too stopped. These medications are not easy to come by and these diseases can kill if not treated correctly. I shudder to think of the suffering they are going through now."

Medical education in the State too has taken a hit. "Usually people with higher ranks join Manipur colleges but due to the conflict, seats here are being ignored. Only people with lower ranks have joined this year," she says. "Many undergraduate and postgraduate students have also quit their seats fearing for their safety, even missing exams. This is damaging to their careers."

Due to the violence and displacement, people have lost their health records and important documents including ART cards (anti-retroviral therapy cards) carried by HIV positive patients as a record of their treatment. As per NHFS data, Manipur has the highest concentration of HIV-positive patients in the country on treatment. Efforts are being made to get treatment for them without their ART cards, based on their treatment history alone.

The healthcare system in Manipur is grappling with a number of challenges. The concentration of medical facilities in Imphal, exacerbated by the displacement of communities, has strained an already fragile system, leaving other districts significantly underserved. The departure of specialists, logistical hurdles in medical supply chains, and the lack of health insurance amplify the plight of both healthcare providers and patients. Relief camps, established as a refuge for those displaced, present their own set of health risks. Health records are also missing. The long-term implications for the region's healthcare are dire. There is a case for urgent and sustained effort.

(Dr. Christianez Ratna Kiruba is an internal medicine doctor with a passion for patient rights advocacy. She may be reached at christianezdennis@gmail.com)

Researchers engineer plant cells to produce drug for cancer

R. Sujatha

Researchers at the Indian Institutes of Technology Madras and Mandi have metabolically engineered plant cells to increase production of anti-cancer drug camptothecin (CPT).

The allopathic medicine is produced using *Nathapodytes nimmoniana*, a native, endangered plant. It requires nearly 1,000 tonnes of plant material to extract 1 tonne of CPT. The International Union for Conservation of Nature has red-listed the plant as in the past decade alone there has been a 20% decline in the plant's population.

In 2021, IIT Madras researchers published a research paper in which they identified a microbe as a sustainable and high-yielding alternative source for CPT. Researchers from Plant Cell Technology Lab of IIT Madras developed genome-scale metabolic model for N. nimmoniana plant cells using computational tools.

The researchers say the study could pave the way for effective and efficient commercial production of the drug and other medicinally important alkaloids and reduce the need to cut down endangered plants. Karthik Raman, Smita Srivastava, professors in the Biotechnology department and Sarayu Murali, and Maziya Ibrahim of Computational Systems Biology Lab of IIT Madras and Shyam K. Masakapalli and Shagun Saini from Metabolic Systems Biology Lab in IIT Mandi comprised the team that

Camptothecin is a lead molecule based on which drugs for chemotherapy are produced. It is procured from nature and then made into a drug

conducted the study.

The Science and Engineering Board (SERB) and the Department of Science and Technology funded the research that was published in a peer-reviewed journal *Frontiers of Plant Science*.

Principal investigator Smita Srivastava of Bhupat and Jyoti Mehta School of Biosciences, Department of Biotechnology, said integration of metabolic engineering with bioprocess engineering principles could ensure enhanced and sustainable production of the drug, meeting the increasing market demand in a short time.

Ms. Smita said, "It is a well-known lead molecule based on which drugs for chemotherapy are produced for stage 4 cancer. Camptothecin is a molecule procured from nature and then (in a) one-step derivative it is produced as drug. We have provided a more sustainable way of producing camptothecin as it is majorly procured from plants. We have isolated the plant cell of Nothapodytes nimmoniana, which is native to India."

The researcher has grown cultures of the plant in the lab. "We extracted the cells maintained the plant cell line in the lab and engineered them to enhance the production of camptothecin. If we take up an engineered cell line, then an approval from the review committee on genetic manipulation is mandatory. We are at technology readiness level 3-4; we still have to optimise at the bioreactor level. It is a molecule of huge interest in cancer treatment," she explained.

Camptothecin is majorly produced in southeast Asian region, with the plant being largely found only in China and India. The Chinese variety of the plant used to extract the cell is listed as critically endangered. There are only 4,000 of the species left. In India the plant is a native of western ghats and in the last decade there was a 20% decline in population, she said.

Co-investigator Mr. Karthik said the platform for model-based rational metabolic engineering of plant cells could be adopted to enhance production of many other high-value phytochemicals as well. The plant culture helped him understand the metabolic pathways of the cell. "Dr. Smita developed the culture. We can get a reasonable growth rate and look for commercially viable productivity. We built metabolism models of the plant," he said.

(sujatha.r@thehindu.co.in)

THE SCIENCE QUIZ

Please send in your answers to science@thehindu.co.in

Do you know enough about the vitamins the body needs?

Foods rich in Vitamin C. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

Anjali Srivastava

QUESTION 1

_____ is an alcohol-related disorder resulting from a lack of thiamine (vitamin B1), leading to severe memory problems and neurological issues.

QUESTION 2

Basking in the sun isn't just for relaxation; it triggers the skin to produce a vital nutrient. Once this product reaches the liver and kidneys, it transforms into a hormone. What's this multi-talented nutrient?

QUESTION 3

Vitamin C, renowned for its potent antioxidant properties abundant in citrus fruits, plays a pivotal role in the body by facilitating the synthesis of which essential structural protein, crucial for skin, tendons, cartilage, and blood vessels.

QUESTION 4

_____, also known as Vitamin H, is a water-soluble vitamin that plays a role in the metabolism of fats, carbohydrates, and amino acids. It was initially called "H" from the German word "Haar und Haut," meaning hair and skin.

QUESTION 5

This vitamin often resides backstage, overlooked among its peers. Despite its vital role in blood clotting, it's often called the forgotten vitamin.

Visual question: Identify the biochemist recognised as the "father of vitamins", who, in 1912, introduced the term "vitamine," pioneering our understanding of essential nutrients as "vital amines" or "vitamines".

For feedback and suggestions for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

95.5 lakh Indians have saved over
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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Foreign payments to Trump's businesses during his presidency

7.8 in $ million. Businesses tied to former U.S. President Donald Trump received foreign payments from 20 countries during his four years in power, as per Democratic congressional investigators. REUTERS

The number of domestic aircraft inducted in 2023

133 This is 51% higher on an annual basis, according to a release by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA). The induction is to meet the rising passenger demand, DGCA added. PTI

The hydroelectricity India plans to import from Nepal

10,000 in MW. The deal between India and its neighbouring country is expected to draw investments to cash-strapped Nepal. REUTERS

Prisoners pardoned by Myanmar's military government

9,652 The head of Myanmar's military council, Senior Gen. Min Aung Hlaing granted amnesty to 114 jailed foreigners as part of its 76th anniversary of Independence. AP

The Central Bank records growth in loans in Q3 of FY24

14.9 in percentage. The Central Bank of India posted growth in advances to ₹2.4 lakh crore for the third quarter of the financial year of 2023-24. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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Decoding the Adani-Hindenburg judgment

A perusal of the recent Supreme Court order showcases deficiencies which can subvert the ongoing investigation into the Adani group of companies

LETTER & SPIRIT

Prasenjit Bose

A perusal of the recent Supreme Court order on the Adani-Hindenburg matter reveals that the verdict has limited itself to the conduct of inquiries by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) in the matter. Two of these inquiries are still ongoing. The apex court has ruled that there is no regulatory failure on SEBI's part and hence no need for any external agency like a Special Investigating Team (SIT) to further investigate the matter. In other words, if the apex court has given any "clean chit", it is to SEBI and not to the Adani group. Yet there are deficiencies in the Supreme Court judgment which can subvert the ongoing investigation into the Adani group and which merit reconsideration in the interest of justice.

Lack of scrutiny

The judgment records that SEBI has completed 22 out of the 24 investigations in the Adani-Hindenburg matter. It further notes that the court has not interfered with the investigations and it is for SEBI to take them "to their logical conclusion in accordance with law".

This status report on investigations was submitted by SEBI to the apex court on August 25, 2023. The 22 completed reports included two on manipulation of stock prices, 13 on failure to disclose Related Party Transactions (RTPs), five on violation of insider trading regulations and one each on violations of regulations on Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPI) and Acquisitions & Takeovers. However, these investigation reports have remained under wraps for over four months, with their findings unknown. Unless the findings of the SEBI investigations are publicly reported and acted upon, how can one conclude whether or not there has been regulatory failure? The SC judgment has accepted SEBI's status report at face value without examining the findings of these reports in its judgment. Neither have the petitioners been allowed access to these reports nor have they been vetted by the Expert Committee (EC) appointed by the apex court to investigate regulatory failure. There is an absence of rigorous scrutiny of SEBI's investigations.

'Chicken-and-Egg' inquiry

The terms of reference for the SEBI inquiries were set by the Supreme Court itself in its order dated March 2, 2023. The very first term was to probe the alleged violation of Rule 19A of the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Rules 1957 by the Adani group companies. This implied probing into the alleged offence of maintaining promoter group shareholding above the regulatory threshold of 75% through front companies based in overseas tax havens. If proven, such an offence could lead to the de-listing of the Adani group companies.

As per the EC's submissions, SEBI's inquiry on this matter had been ongoing since October 2020, much before the publication of reports by Hindenburg or the Organised Crime and Corruption Reporting Project (OCCRP). Even after several extensions granted by the apex court in 2023, SEBI was unable to conclude this vital inquiry on the ground that information sought from foreign jurisdictions were still awaited. Yet, the apex court judgment gives another three months extension to SEBI for concluding this inquiry and the petitions complaining about regulatory failure have been disposed of, before ascertaining this inquiry's outcome.

The report of the EC had brought to light that 13 overseas entities having significant shareholding in the Adani group of companies were being investigated by SEBI for long. However, the EC also noted that the inquiry had "hit a wall" and SEBI's attempts to identify the ultimate beneficial owners of those 13 entities could become "a journey without a destination". The EC further reported that agencies like the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) and the Enforcement Directorate (ED) required SEBI to first make a *prima facie* case to conduct further investigations. The SEBI could not present such a case because the dilution and eventual repeal of the prohibition of "opaque structures" in FPI regulations had tied SEBI's hands. This conundrum has been characterised by the EC as a "chicken-and-egg situation". These were not allegations made by Hindenburg or OCCRP, but revelations made by the EC itself.

It is therefore, inexplicable why the apex court did not intervene to resolve this "chicken-and-egg situation" and direct the CBDT, ED and other relevant agencies to extend all possible assistance to SEBI in unearthing the ultimate beneficial owners of those 13 suspected overseas entities.

Statutory violations were overlooked

The apex court judgment expresses reluctance to act as appellate authority over regulatory policies framed by SEBI by stating that the court "may interfere only when it is found that the actions are arbitrary or violative of constitutional or statutory mandates".

The EC report provided an elaborate account of SEBI's successive amendments to the regulations on FPIs made in 2018 and 2019 as well as the regulations on

We Demand JPC on Adani scam
JPC ON ADANI SCANDAL
JPC ON ADANI SCANDAL
Save LIC
How much money has Adani given to the BJP in the last 20 years?
We fought British We will fight RSS/ Modi
We fought British We will fight RSS/ Modi
DEMOCRACY IN DANGER

Murky waters: Opposition parties undertake a protest march demanding a JPC probe into the Adani-Hindenburg issue, in New Delhi, on March 24, 2023. PTI

SEBI's inquiry on this matter had been ongoing since October 2020, much before the publication of reports by Hindenburg or the Organised Crime and Corruption Reporting Project (OCCRP)

Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements (LODR) brought between 2018 and 2022. These amendments in effect facilitated the concealment of ultimate beneficial ownership of FPIs investing in Indian security markets and their related party transactions. Hence they are violative of Section 12A of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992 which explicitly prohibits "contrivances and devices that are structured to bypass the law".

By rejecting the prayer for revoking these amendments, the apex court has ignored the detailed critique of SEBI's regulatory actions contained in the EC report. It has rather relied upon certain assertions made by SEBI in an affidavit submitted on July 10, 2023, which appear *prima facie* counter factual and deceptive. For instance, SEBI claimed that its use of the term "opaque" to describe the suspected FPIs was mistakenly interpreted by the EC to imply that the rules on "opaque structures" under the FPI Regulations, 2014 were diluted. This argument is an affront to the collective wisdom of the EC.

The affidavit also suppressed the fact that its Master Circular on Anti-Money Laundering and Combating Financing of Terrorism Standards issued in February 2010 had a categorical definition of "beneficial ownership" as "the natural person or persons who ultimately own, control or influence a client and/or persons on whose behalf a transaction is being conducted".

However, the amendments made by SEBI in 2018 and 2019 to the FPI Regulations, 2014 diluted the definition in three significant ways – a) the term "ultimate beneficial owner" as per the definition of the 2010 circular, was replaced with "beneficial owner"; b) this "beneficial owner" was defined as per the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA) and Rules framed thereunder, which mandated 25% shareholding thresholds for identifying beneficial ownership; c) and the term "opaque structure" was deleted altogether. SEBI's July 10 affidavit grossly misinterpreted the continuous dilution of FPI provisions as tightening of disclosure requirements by FPIs. Even after admitting in its July 10 affidavit that "the existence of thresholds for determination of beneficial owners" offered a challenge in identifying beneficial ownership of FPIs, SEBI suppressed the important fact that the 25% shareholding threshold emanating from the PML (Maintenance of Records) Rules, 2005 were amended only in March 7, 2023 by the Ministry of Finance and lowered to 10%. This amendment was made after the Supreme Court order on March 2, 2023 had already set the terms of reference for the SEBI inquiry into the Adani group and also constituted the EC.

The apex court could have taken cognisance of these legislative and regulatory changes, which were made when the matter was already *sub judice*. Whether the lowering of the shareholding threshold to identify ultimate beneficial ownership under PML Rules resolved the problems encountered by SEBI in its ongoing investigation, was also not considered by the apex court.

Allegations or evidence?

The concluding observation of the Supreme Court judgment with reference to petitions that "lack adequate research and rely on unverified and unrelated material" being "counterproductive" appears out of place, given that whatever regulatory actions were undertaken in the past ten months have only been a fallout of the apex court's interventions. SEBI on its own could not register any progress in its investigations on the Adani group and 13 suspected overseas entities since October 2020.

How can the Hindenburg report of January 2023 or the OCCRP report of August 2023 be considered "unrelated" material, when they could independently identify some of those overseas entities which were already under SEBI's suspicion? These reports unveiled Vinod Adani as the ultimate beneficial owner of a massive web of shell companies hidden behind characters like Chang Chung Ling and Nasser Ali and established their link with the Adani promoter group. This was the *prima facie* evidence which SEBI could not unearth for over two years.

The SEBI should have acted upon this evidence by now. The apex court could also have prodded SEBI to do so. Rather, SEBI has chosen to shoot the messenger by opening a probe against Hindenburg's short-selling, which by its own submission is recognised as "legitimate investment activity by securities market regulators in most countries". The judgment has also nullified the OCCRP report as one from a "third-party organisation" labelling its investigative findings as "allegations" which "cannot be regarded as conclusive proof". They may not be conclusive proof, but could have been considered as evidence additional to those provided in the Hindenburg report.

In sum, where does the Supreme Court judgement land the Adani investigation? SEBI would continue with its "chicken and egg" inquiry into the violation of minimum shareholding norms by the Adani group companies, now free from any judicial oversight. The findings of the completed SEBI inquiries on share price manipulation, insider trading, non-disclosure of related party transactions et cetera would remain under the lid. Hindenburg will be investigated for causing market volatility and losses sustained by "Indian investors". The OCCRP report which revealed crucial links between suspected overseas entities, Vinod Adani and the Adani promoter group stands junked.

This is particularly disturbing because neither Hindenburg nor OCCRP were the first entities to make allegations of share price manipulation and round tripping against the Adani group. Fifteen years ago, SEBI itself had filed a criminal complaint against the Adani group for regulatory violations. As per Adani's own disclosure in a prospectus, members of the Adani promoter group were indicted by SEBI for price manipulation of Adani Enterprises (AEL) shares in league with debarred trader Ketan Parekh and were themselves initially debarred from the stock market for two years. The case was finally settled "upon payment of certain amounts" in April 2008.

The Adani group is once again being investigated by SEBI for over three years now, for similar offences but involving more complex cross border transactions as well as a much larger amount of money. However, no criminal complaint has been registered so far against the promoters. Whether truth and justice has prevailed, as claimed by Mr. Adani on X after the verdict, is for everyone to see.

Prasenjit Bose is an economist and activist based in Kolkata.

KSRTC's new year plan: 2,000 new buses and cashless travel

The corporation will also add 1,000 refurbished buses and introduce a mobile app

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Currently, the four RTCs operate 23,989 buses across the State. FILE PHOTO

The Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) has big expansion plans for 2024. It intends to induct 2,000 new buses, including 500 e-buses, and to also introduce VTMS (Vehicle Tracking & Monitoring System), a mobile app, and cashless travel this year.

Anbu Kumar, Managing Director, KSRTC, said that the KSRTC will add 20 Ambari Utsav, 20 Airavat Club Class, 100 Pallaki buses which fall in the non-AC sleeper category, 1000 point to point Karnataka Sarige buses and 500 electric buses. Apart from this Mr. Kumar added that 1000 refurbished buses will be added to the fleet in 2024.

Following the launch of Shakti that provides free travel to women in State-owned non-premium transport corporation buses, there's been a significant demand for KSRTC buses, particularly in rural areas. A senior official said that the plan to induct 1000 Karnataka Sarige buses will improve rural connectivity in the State and it will also help the beneficiaries of the scheme. After the Karnataka government launched the Shakti scheme, the four corporations (KSRTC, the BMTC, the NWKRTC, and the KKRTC) planned to procure 3,888 new buses. Currently, the four RTCs operate 23,989 buses across the State with an average run of 65.02 lakh kilometres per day. Meanwhile, it is not clear as to how many buses will be taken off roads this year in light of the recent High Court order, which said KSRTC should obtain fitness certificate for its buses from the Regional Transport Officers (RTOs) every year.

Cashless travel

In response to passengers' growing demand for a cashless travel experience, KSRTC is set to transition to a cashless system in 2024. Mr. Kumar said, "We plan to introduce cashless payment options, allowing passengers to use UPI, ATM, debit, or credit cards to make ticket payments."

The corporation has outlined plans to prioritise the enhancement of information technology. To benefit passengers, it aims to implement VTMS (Vehicle Tracking & Monitoring System) across its fleet and is scheduled to launch a dedicated KSRTC mobile app this year. According to Mr. Kumar, the 'Namma Cargo' parcel services, launched last month, are set to expand from the current fleet of 20 trucks to 500 by the end of the year.

Meanwhile, the KSRTC has also waived 10,364 disciplinary cases against employees with minimal penalties, facilitating the return of 425 drivers to work. Additionally, the corporation has secured 50 national and international awards in the year 2023, according to officials.

The Corporation recently wrapped up the 'Labour Welfare Year' in 2023, implementing initiatives focused on improving the welfare of its employees. During the year, ₹1 crore was allocated to the families of deceased employees as relief.

Fire personnel rescue woman who tried to end life with her five-year-old son

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a swift action, Fire and Emergency Services personnel rescued a 37-year-old woman in the nick of time while she was attempting to end her life along with five-year-old son on Wednesday.

Fireman Venkataram along with his colleagues Venkatagowda and Muniraju, broke open the door and pounced on the woman before she could light a match box after opening the knob of the LPG cylinder. The personnel dragged the woman and the child out of the apartment and opened the windows and doors of the apartment to let the gas out.

The incident occurred around 8.30 a.m. on Wednesday when all the policemen and fire personnel were busy at the Janaspandana programme of Deputy Chief Minister D. K. Shivakumar in K. R. Puram on Wednesday.

The victim Tamil Selvi, a resident of Shreenidhi Alpines Apartment, Nagondanahalli, locked the flat from inside, shut all doors and windows with her son Ashwath, 5, inside, after a fight with her husband and his family.

Even after repeated attempts to get her to open the door, she did not budge and threatened to blow herself up. Her husband rushed to the fire station and requested Venkataramu, who was in charge at the station for help.

Just in time

As the fire rescuers reached the spot along with Whitefield police, they sensed danger as they smelt LPG gas coming from inside the flat.

They broke open the door and rescued the woman before she could light the matchstick.

The rescued woman was taken to the police station for counselling. She had been under mental stress and needs treatment, a senior police officer said.

(Those in distress or those having suicidal tendencies can call Arogya Sahayavani on 104 for help.)

Gang of five kidnaps 60-year-old industrialist demanding ransom of ₹1 crore; one arrested

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a swift action, the Parappana Agarahara police cracked the case of kidnapping of a 60-year-old industrialist by a gang of five in a bid to extort ₹1 crore from him last week, and arrested one of the members of the gang that carried out the kidnapping on Thursday.

The victim, Tangaraju, a resident of HSR Layout and owner of an aluminium factory in Veerasandra Industrial estate, was driving his car to office when the accused confronted him near SBI circle in Electronics City.

The accused dragged him out of the car at gun point and forced him into their car and drove away, while a few members of the gang followed the car in Tangaraju's car.

The victim's phone was snatched away and was made wear black goggles. The accused claiming to be police officials, beat up the victim and threatened him with dire consequences demanding a ransom of ₹1 crore for his release.

The accused claiming to be police officials, beat up the victim and threatened him with dire consequences

When Tangaraju pleaded with them that he did not have that kind of money to pay them, the accused threatened to abduct his brother-in-law and murder him. After a few hours of torture the accused stopped the car, returned the mobile phone, and pushed him out before fleeing away.

Tangaraju lodged a complaint with the police the same day. Based on the complaint, the police swung into action, analysed CCTV footage from the area where he was abducted and zeroed in on one of the accused, and arrested him.

All the accused are habitual offenders having similar cases pending against them, a police officer said, adding that efforts are on to track down others who are on the run.

From Page One

MCC to admit boys to all UG and PG courses

Mount Carmel College was one of the few all-girl colleges in Bengaluru for almost seven decades. In 2015, after the college received permission to admit boys, it was met with backlash. Even this time, the decision to offer admissions for boys has been criticised by several students and alumni.

"So far, we have had no judgment or drama in the college. We had a sense of security. It does not mean that other colleges are unsafe, but studying in a women's college has advantages. Some parents sent their daughters here only because it was a women's college, and the education of such students might get affected now," said a student (who requested anonymity) of M.A. English Course at Mount Carmel College.

"For 75 years, every woman who studied at this college contributed to its legacy. What is the need to bring about this change," an alumna posted on social media. Soon after the college announced its new decision on social media, it triggered a meme fest about boys celebrating the decision.

INBRIEF

Programme to mark 19th anniversary of music institution

Students of vocalist Gangubai Hangal Sangeet Vidyalay, Hubballi, will present vocal and instrumental concerts in Hubballi on Sunday, during the 19th anniversary of the music institution. Addressing presspersons in Hubballi on Thursday, vocalist Vaishnavi Hangal said that the anniversary programme will be held at D.S. Karki Kannada Bhavan at 5 p.m. on that day and Member of Legislative Assembly Mahesh Tenginakai will be the chief guest.

Students from Mysuru, Bengaluru and Mumbai will perform during the event, she said.

Police probe child abduction case, find baby with her mother

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Banashankari police are now in a fix over an alleged abduction of a four-year-old girl by an employee of a furniture shop on December 28. The investigation has shown the case involved a custody battle between the girl's parents.

The father of the girl, identified as Shafiulla, owner of a furniture shop from Kaveripura, filed a complaint that his employee, Waseem, had taken the girl on the pretext of getting her chocolate from a nearby shop and abducted her.

In his complaint, Shafiulla said Waseem had quit the job and rejoined a few days ago.

Based on a complaint, the police swung into action and found the girl to be safe with her mother. Inquiries revealed that Shafiulla was separated from his wife over a domestic row and had taken the daughter along. Both the parents are fighting for the custody of the baby girl, and the mother got her back through the employee.

Even though Shafiulla was aware of this, he wanted to teach his wife a lesson and filed a complaint against Waseem, accusing him of abduction to implicate his wife in the case. Shafiulla is now demanding that the police get his daughter back. The police are now seeking help from legal experts on how to proceed with the case.

Engineering student ends life using father's gun

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 19-year-old engineering student ended his life by shooting with his father's double-barrel gun at his house in Chikkabidarakallu in Thirumalapura on the outskirts of the city on Wednesday.

The deceased, Vishu Uttappa, a native of Kodagu, was a first-year Bachelor of Engineering student at a private college in the city. Vishu was the only child of his parents. He was alone at home while his parents had gone out shopping when he shot himself. His father, Ravi Uttappa, a security guard at a private company, had a double-barrel gun at home.

The incident came to light when they returned home and found him in a pool of blood with a bullet wound in his chest. He was rushed to a private hospital, where doctors declared him brought dead.

The Madanayakanahalli police rushed to the spot and conducted an initial probe with the forensic team. The case was transferred to Peenya police for further investigations. Initial probe revealed that Vishu was depressed and had an altercation with his parents over his studies. Police are probing further to ascertain the cause of his extreme step.

(Those in distress or those having suicidal tendencies can call Arogya Sahayavani on 104 for help).

Rain lashes coastal areas of the State

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

Rain lashed the coastal belt of Karnataka, including Mangaluru and Udupi, on Thursday.

According to the rainfall alert of Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre (KSNDMC), a low pressure area lies over south-east Arabian Sea, and a trough runs from the cyclonic circulation associated with this low pressure area off the north Kerala coast in lower levels.

Under the influence of the above synoptic conditions, it stated that scattered to widespread, light to moderate rain and, at isolated places, heavy rain was very likely over Dakshina Kannada, Kodagu, Chikkamagaluru, and parts of Chamarajanagar, Shivamogga, Mysuru, and Mandya districts. Remaining parts of Karnataka are likely to have cloudy conditions with isolated very light to light rain during the next five days.

The KSNDMC said that the coastal area – Dakshina Kannada, Udupi, and Uttara Kannada districts – recorded an average 5.5 mm rainfall in the last 24 hours ending at 8.30 a.m. on Thursday, as against the normal average rainfall of 0.1 mm for the period.

Dakshina Kannada recorded an average 5.2 mm rainfall, Udupi district 15.6 mm, and Uttara Kannada 2.1 mm during the same period.

The cumulative rainfall recorded in the coastal belt from January 1 to 4 (till 8.30 a.m.) was an average 6 mm. Dakshina Kannada recorded an average of 7 mm, Udupi district 16 mm, and Uttara Kannada reported an average of 2 mm rainfall.

In 2023 , coastal region recorded an average of 2,848 mm of rainfall as against the normal of 3,518 mm. There was a shortfall of 19% in rainfall during the period.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that my clients **1.Mrs.TAMMANA SAMRAJYA LAKSHMI, 2.Mr.T N V RAJESH KUMAR,** intend to purchase the immovable property described in the schedule hereunder from its owner, **M/s.HOLY SAINT EDUCATION SOCIETY.** Any person/s having any claim, title and interest over the schedule property or any objections to the proposed purchase, may file their objections in writing along with copies of supporting documents to the undersigned within **15 days** from the date of this publication and a copy of objections to our below mentioned office, failing which my clients will be advised to go ahead and complete the formalities for registered Sale Deed.

:: SCHEDULE ::

All that piece and parcel of the intermediate Site bearing **No.70,** measuring East to West 30 Feet and North to South 45 Feet, in all measuring **1350 square feet,** out of the property bearing Site No.69, 70, 71, 72, BBMP Katha No.18, PID No.54-345-18, measuring East to West on the Northern side 127 feet, on the Southern Side 131 feet (127+131/2) North to South 45 feet, in all measuring **5805 square feet,** situated at **18th Cross, Srinivas Nagar, Bangalore,** and bounded on the: **East by: Site No.71; West by: Site No.69; North by: Road; South by: Site No.75;**

SAHAI KUMAR, Advocate
#311, 2nd Floor, 3rd Main, 3rd Phase, J.P.Nagar, Bangalore-560078 Mob : 9845090974

Hg: 15.02.2024
BEFORE THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL - II
4th Floor, Telephone House, Raj Bhavan Road, Bengaluru-560001
O.A. No.814/2020

BETWEEN

STATE BANK OF INDIA
Asset Recovery Management Branch (ARMB), 2nd Floor, A Block, BKG Complex, Mysore Bank Circle, Avenue Road, BANGALORE - 560009,
Now at #11/90, 3rd Floor, Near Old Shivaji Theatre, JC Road, Bengaluru - 560002
Represented by its Chief Manager
..... ***Applicant***

AND

Mr. Mohammed Riyaz Thokkur
..... **Defendants**

SUMMONS ISSUED UNDER RULE 23(Viii) OF THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEEDURE) RULES 1993 BY PAPER PUBLICATION

DEFENDANT

Mr. Mohammed Riyaz Thokkur
Prop. Coastal Logistics
S/o T.A. Khader
Aged about 41 years,
Residing at 3-245(3), 1st Floor, Sheeba Apartments, Near Nyle Fuel Centre, Jokatte, Mangalore - 574 173
PAN No.: ANPPM 2565 G
And also at: No. 4/3A, Kaange, House KBS, 62nd Thokur, Jokkatte, Mangalore - 574 173

Whereas, the Applicant Has instituted an application under Section 19 of the Recovery of Debts and Bankruptcy Act, 1993, against the Defendants for recovery of sum of **Rs. 32,87,963**/- (Rupees thirty two lakhs eighty seven thousand nine hundred and sixty three only) together with cost and other reliefs.

The above mentioned Defendant is therefore hereby directed to appear before this Tribunal in person or through an Advocate or duly authorized agent, in support of his/their defense to show cause within 30 days from the date of publication or on 15.02.2024 at 10.30 am (forenoon) as to why the relief prayed for should not be granted.

Date: 14/12/2023
BY ORDER OF THE TRIBUNAL
Sd/-
REGISTRAR
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II
BANGALORE 560 001

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client **Mr.MOHAMMED KHIZER KHAN,** S/o.Mr.A.R.Siraj Khan, Residing at # 4/2, Silver Enclave Apartment, Cleveland Town, Frazer Town, Bangalore-560 005, is the reputed Builder & Developer and as such intends to develop the property mentioned in the schedule hereunder which belongs to **Mr.JAVEED IQBAL,** S/o.Mr.Abdul Jabbar, Residing at # 15, RMS Colony, RMV 2nd Stage, Sanjay Nagar, Bangalore-560 094, by virtue of Registered Deed of Sale vide Dated:29-12-1993 which is Registered as Document No.4372 of 1993-94 at Pages 162 to 165 in Volume No.738 of Book-I, by the Sub-Registrar, Krishnarajapuram, Bangalore., and my client intends to enter into a Joint Development Agreement with the said owner of the schedule property.

Any person who has got any Right, Title, Interest or claim and objections if any to the proposed Joint Development transaction may write to the undersigned with documentary proof within **TEN DAYS** from the date of Publication of this Notice, failing which it is presumed that there are no claims, and no objections, and my client will proceed with the said Joint Development of the Schedule Property and no claims or objections will be entertained thereafter.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL of Residential Property Bearing Municipal Corporation **No.8,** situated at **11th Main, Malleshpalya, New BBMP Ward No.57, (C.V.Raman Nagar), Kaggadasapura, Bangalore** (formerly Being Site Bearing No.16 & 17, HASB Khata No.294/3, situated at **Kaggadasapura Village, K.R.Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore).**

MEASURING :
East to West : 72+71 feet; / 2
North to South : 51+47 feet; / 2

BOUNDED ON THE :
East by: Property Bearing No.18;
West by: Road;
North by: Road;
South by: Property Bearing No.19;

ABDUL LATEEF KHAN
M.A.,LL.B., **Advocate,**
No.16, 12th Cross, B.S.A. Road, 1st Stage, Pillanna Garden, B'lore-84.
M : 9845110533
Place : Bangalore Date : 04-01-2024

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PERSONAL

ANNOUNCEMENTS

I, M R Janardhan S/o Rajgopal aged about 57 years, Residing at No.1947/A, 10th Main, A Block, 2nd Stage, Rajajinagar, Bengaluru North Bengaluru-560010. I state that I was born on 25-04-1966, the same has been entered in my Aadhar Card and PAN Card but in my driving License my date of birth has been wrongly mentioned as 22-07-1965 instead of 25-04-1966 I request the concerned authorities to correct my date of birth as 25-04-1966. Vide Affidavit dated: 07-12-2023, Sworn before Notary K.G.Rajpal, Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SERVICE No. 401801, Ex-Sgt, Seshagiri Rao, S/o Late Sitaramaiah, resident of Flat No.A-1/502, Gokulam Apartments, Doddakallasandra, Bengaluru-560062, have changed my name from Seshagiri Rao to Seshagiri Rao Burra vide affidavit dated: 02/01/2024.

I, SUMITHRA Spouse of No.635143F Rank: Ex-Sergeant Name: Gangadhariah T R, residing at No.10, 11th Cross, Opposite to Sriram Sameksha Apartment, Gangammagudi Police Station Road, Kuvempu Nagar 1st Stage, Jalahalli East, Bangalore-560014, have changed my name from Sumithra to Sumithra C vide affidavit dated : 03/01/2024 at Bangalore.

I, JACQLINE Pretty, DOB: 22-02-1996, R/o No.346, Janatha Colony, Doddakannahalli, Bangalore-560035 have changed my name to Jacqline Pretty J vide affidavit dt: 02.01.2024 sworn before Notary B.M.Chandrashekar, B'lore

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LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE LXXIII ADDL.CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE AT BANGALORE (CCH-74)
O.S No. 25805/2023
Hg. 27.01.2024

BETWEEN :
ICICI Bank Ltd.,
having its Registered Office at ICICI Tower, Near Chakli Circle, Old Padra Road, Vadodara-390 007 and its branch office at Mythri Center, 4/10, Hosur Road, Bommanahalli, Bangalore- 560 068 ...Plaintiff
AND
Wasim Ahmed ...Defendant
SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT
To,
Wasim Ahmed,
Aged about 29 years,
S/o Salauddin Ansari,
R/a Babu Building, 3rd Floor Kodathi Village Sarjapur Road Carmelaram Post, Near Kodathi Grama Panchayath Post Bangalore- 560 035

Whereas the Plaintiff has instituted the above proceedings against you seeking recovery of **Rs. 3,69,761.15/- (as on 07/03/2023)** along with interest at 24% p.a. and other consequential reliefs. You are hereby summoned to appear before the LXXIII Addl. City Civil & Sessions Judge, Mayo Hall Unit, Bangalore [CCH 74] in person or by a pleader duly instructed and able to answer all material questions relating to the above proceedings on the **27.01.2024** at **11:00 A.M** take notice that in default of your appearance on the day mentioned before, the suit will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hard and the seal of this court, this the **14th** day of **December, 2023.**

By order of the court
Deputy Registrar
City Civil Court
Mayo Hall Unit
Bangalore

Advocate for Plaintiff
Shiva & Co. Advocates,
No. 109, Commerce House,
9/1, Cunningham Road,
Bangalore- 560052

IN THE LIMELIGHT

Stills from *Kaala Paani* and *Joram*.

Changing portrayal of indigenous communities in Hindi entertainment

The depiction of tribal populations has been marked by cliches and stereotypes. After decades of being reduced to caricatures and cardboard characters, the cinematic gaze towards tribal issues and culture is getting incisive and inclusive

Anuj Kumar

At a time when the Bharatiya Janata Party's tribal outreach is paying rich electoral dividends, the entertainment industry is also adjusting its gaze towards a segment of society that constitutes around 8.5% of the population.

Over the years, the depiction of indigenous communities has been marked by cliches and stereotypes. Often portrayed as barbaric people who kill indiscriminately to save their atavistic customs, they have always been shown to need the civilisational embrace of the hero. Their women are shown to be gullible, who easily surrender to the status and masculinity of the city-bred male protagonist.

Depiction in 'old' Bollywood

The portrayal of tribal people is often sexualised to suit the urban gaze and a perception has been built that when it comes to cultural communication, indigenous communities either break into a 'Chadh Gayo Papi Bichua' or jive to the rhythmic gibberish of 'Jhinga Lala Hu'. From *Madhumati* (1958) and *Talash* (1969) to *Carvan* (1971) and *Shalimar* (1978), there is a long list of films where indigenous people are reduced to caricatures or cardboard characters where men and women are dressed in attires laced with beads and feathers.

Even Satyajit Ray was guilty of perpetuating the stereotype in *Aranyer Din Ratri* (1970) where Simi Grewal's face was blackened to make her fit into a stock tribal character who gives in to the charm of the sheheri babu, the bhadralok. With hardly any role in the running of the industry and only limited consumption at the box office, the pushback has been meek.

A glorious exception has been Mrinal Sen's *Mrigaya* (1976). Released during the Emergency, it is about the rule of law in unequal societies. When the lustful moneylender kills a tribal rebel he is rewarded by the colonial master but when the young tribal protagonist beheads the beast to save his wife from his clutches, he falls prey to the British rule of law. The film's message goes beyond the clash of cultures. It talks of resistance against a system that indemnifies the perpetrators of injustice.

Four decades later, S.S. Rajamouli came up with one of the most problematic profiling of indigenous communities in *Bahubali* where the film suggests that those who adopted the Hindu way became civilised and the rest remained in the 'dark ages'.

A marked change

Of late, the entertainment space has finally been engaging in a more nuanced debate on issues of tribal identity and survival. Writers seem eager to portray tribal characters as the driving force of a narrative as generic tales give way to more lived-in experiences. The naivety is no longer romanticised and female characters have more heft. Like in most cinematic trends these days, the push has come from the south when the tribal woman in *Jai Bhim* (2021) stood up to power and refused to be crushed without a fight within the ring provided by the Constitution. Rajamouli also made amends with *RRR* (2022). The Gond girl Malli becomes a symbol of the natural wealth of the tribals that continues to be ravaged by those in power for their vested interests.

In popular milieu, Amar Kaushik's *Bhediya* (2022) smartly uses the beliefs and folklore of the Apatani tribe of the North East to convey the message of sustainable development with the catchphrase 'prakarti hai to pragati hai'.

The deep-seated prejudice of a section of the system comes to fore in the second season of Richie Mehta's *Delhi Crime* (Netflix) where members of denotified tribes are falsely implicated for a sudden spurt in burglaries and gruesome murders in the posh area of South Delhi. Here, a retired police officer is called in to throw light on the case and reminds us that denotified tribes were called criminal tribes during Colonial rule and that their behaviour hasn't changed after independence. As the corrupt officer paints the entire community with the same brush, the series expresses the general sentiment that exists against the denotified tribes in society and how it has pushed them into a corner. The system in its hurry to solve the case often falls prey to such dangerous profiling. In its denouement, the series stands apart as the stereotype is dismantled by sensitive officers like Vartika Chaturvedi and Bhupendra, faces of the same system that criminalises tribals.

Combating the 'Naxal' narrative

If *Delhi Crime* shows us that indigenous tribes are living next to us in the urban jungle, Devashish Makhija's recent release *Joram* addresses the development debate and de-hyphenates the tribal-Naxal narrative in Jharkhand while staying true to the man-on-the-run thriller genre. In the film, jungles are turned into mining hubs in the name of development by a woman MLA who hails from a tribal community. And Dasru, the protagonist is caught between the so-called guardians and the usurpers of his habitat. While the film doesn't get into the rights and wrongs, it captures how the likes of Dasru are getting dispossessed of their land and culture.

In a telling sequence in the film, Dasru, while returning from Mumbai, the city where he was forced to migrate to as a daily wager, asks a passenger if he has given up on farming. "There is no grain, our fields sprout iron now," comes the blunt reply. The guts to fight for the resources of the jungle, loses out to the hunger of the gut. Like Vartika in *Delhi Crime*, Ratnakar, the junior police officer in *Joram* becomes a tool to raze the predictable Naxal narrative.

That tribal interest is a monolith and that all tribals are poor is shaken in Navdeep Singh's *Shehar Lakhot* (Amazon Prime) where a Ph.D. holder tribal leader protests for the rights of tribal lands in the marble belt of Rajasthan. It shows how industrialists use the local tribal MLA to control the agitation.

Aar Ya Paar (Disney Hotstar) deals with the options before a tribal youth takes on the insatiable greed of a corporate bully to occupy the natural resources. Will Sarju make the country proud in archery or become a hired assassin in his pursuit of revenge and survival? It is a meandering series but again the voice of reason comes from a law enforcer. Asked to eliminate the resistance, officer Aditya Dutt says these people (tribals) believe the jungle is their world while we see it as our fiefdom.

Director Nila Madhab Panda has been working on how climate change affects those the most who have no carbon footprint. In his latest cautionary tale, *The Jengaburu Curse* (SonyLiv), he takes the idea forward in the tribal belt of Odisha that is being trampled by mining barons and links local issues with a global environmental crisis.

A more complex yet cogent analysis of the value of indigenous communities comes through in Sameer Saxena's *Kaala Paani* (Netflix). In the survival drama, the fictitious Oraka tribe holds the cure for a deadly virus that has hit the Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

The series critiques unsustainable development models even as the administration navigates the moral quandary of a typical trolley problem: is it okay to sacrifice a few to save thousands in the name of evolution and change?

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

'Eight for work, eight for sleep, eight for recreation'. A quiz on this movement and how countries came to uphold it

Vasudevan Mukunth

QUESTION 1

Name the American motor company whose head — who is widely credited for leading the development of the assembly line mass-production technique — introduced the eight-hour workday on this day 110 years ago. On the same day, he also introduced a minimum wage of $5 per day.

QUESTION 2

On April 3, 1919, which country became the world's first, following a 44-day strike by workers, to institute an eight-hour workday by law for workers of all sectors?

QUESTION 3

In this country, which no longer exists in its original form, the eight-hour workday was introduced four days after a historic revolution that toppled a short-lived government over its decision to continue fighting World War I. The revolution led to a civil war that lasted six years, ending with the birth of a country that defined itself as a worker's triumph over capitalism. Name the country.

QUESTION 4

In 1919, X established the Hours of Work (Industry) Convention. Article 2 of this Convention adopted the eight-hour workday as a standard. British India ratified the Convention on July 14, 1921. Name X.

QUESTION 5

The Chinese government has been criticised for the use, in some sectors in the country, of the '996' working-hour system, which some scholars have argued is helping these sectors keep alive a form of "modern slavery". What do the numbers 9, 9, and 6 stand for?

Visual question:

Name the event depicted in this engraving. It occurred on May 4, 1886, in Chicago as a peaceful protest by workers for an eight-hour workday but later descended into violence.

Questions and Answers of the previous day's daily quiz: 1. Name the quartet of sprinters to set the 4X400m relay national and Asian record. **Ans: Muhammad Anas Yahiya, Amoj Jacob, Muhammad Ajmal, Rajesh Ramesh**

2. This archer managed to equal the World Record of 713 points at the Archery World Cup Stage-1 in Antalya. **Ans: Jyothi Surekha Vennam**

3. This tennis player became the oldest to clinch an ATP Masters title this year. This was his partner. **Ans: Rohan Bopanna; Matthew Ebden of Australia**

4. Name the trio of Indian shooters who shot a total of 1893.7, 0.4 more than the previous record score at the 2023 Hangzhou Asian games. **Ans: Rudrankksh Balasaheb Patil, Divyansh Singh Panwar, and Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar**

5. This Indian cricketer broke the record for most sixes in Cricket World Cups. **Ans: Rohit Sharma**

Visual: Identify this athlete. **Ans: Sift Kaur Samra**

Early Birds: Varghese Joseph| Nihal Nasir| Abhiroop Bose| Akshanh Thakur| Indra Sharma

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian

"Mr. N. Saravanan, Valluvar Street, Arumbakkam, Madras, wants to know why in wedding invitations 'Sow' is used before the name of the bride as it means a "female pig" in English."

" "Sow" is a contraction of Sanskrit 'Sowbhagyavati'. It is not an English word at all."

"Mr. V. Sivanandan, Tillainagar, Tiruchi wants to know the difference between "popular" and "populist"."

"A popular movie is a movie that is liked by a lot of people. A popular thing is something that is liked by a majority of people. A popular government is a government which is liked by most people. A populist government is a government that will do anything to satisfy the people. Its policy is the policy of expediency, it is not based on any principle. It "exploits people's fears and prejudices in order to achieve political success." "Populist" and "Populism" are formal terms and they don't have a good connotation."

"Mrs. P. B. Janaki, Rayarthope, Srirangam, wants to know the meaning and pronunciation of "bonhomie"."

" "Bonhomie" is 'warm, jolly friendliness a person shows'.

He is known for his bonhomie.

There was an atmosphere of bonhomie at the party.

The first 'o' is pronounced like the 'o' in 'got', the second 'o' like the 'a' in 'India'; 'ie' is pronounced like the 'i' in 'sit', some pronounce it like the 'ee' in 'feel'. Both are acceptable. The 'h' is silent and the stress is on the first syllable. Some stress the third syllable. Both are acceptable. 'Bonhomie' is from French 'honhomme' which means 'A good-natured man'."

"Several readers want to know why the word 'please' is used in the following sentence: 'The President is pleased to order, with immediate effect, the removal of Mr. Devi Lai'. They wonder why the President is happy to remove a person when he is expected to do his duty 'without pleasure or displeasure'."

"When the head of the state says 'I am pleased to...', it means that he has decided to do something 'as an act of favour'. It is a set expression and it doesn't mean that the person is happy. It is like the expression 'Dear Sir' you use when you begin a letter. It is a set expression. Even when you write very angry letters, you begin with 'Dear Sir'."

"Ms. L. Kaur, Ludhiana, wants to know the meaning of 'goof'."

" 'Goof' means 'a foolish person; a silly mistake'. It is a slang word.

He is really a goof.

'To goof' or 'to goof up' means 'to make a stupid mistake'.

I was given that opportunity but I goofed it.

It also means to 'waste time, shirk one's duty'. In this sense, it is used with "off" or "around" or "about".

He is goofing around neglecting his work.

'Goofy' means 'stupid, silly, crazy, ridiculous'.

It was a goofy thing to do.

A goof-off is 'a person who wastes time, neglects his duties or avoids work'. 'Goof' is from French 'goffe', stupid.

Published in The Hindu on August 4, 1990.

Word of the day

Dhow:
a lateen-rigged sailing vessel used by Arabs

Synonyms: sailing ship

Usage: *You can take a trip on a fishing dhow here.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/dhowpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /daʊ/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ಇಲಾಖೆ
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್‌ರವರ ಕಚೇರಿ, ಪಂ.ರಾ.ಇಂ. ವಿಭಾಗ, ಕೆ.ಆರ್.ನಗರ

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಕಾಇಂ/ಪಂರಾಇಂವಿ/ಕೃರಾನ/ಎ.ಇ/ಟೆಂಡರ್/2023–24 ದಿನಾಂಕ : 01.01.2024

ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ರೀತ್ಯಾ ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ –ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ 02/2023–24 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 01.01.2024

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯದ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಐಟಂವಾರು ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು K.W –1 /K.W –2/ K.W –3/ K.W–4 (ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್) ನಿಯಮಾನುಸಾರ ಹಾಗೂ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ನಿಯಮಗಳು G.O. No. FD 9 PCL 2004 Dt. 06-08-2005 ಹಾಗೂ ಇತ್ತೀಚಿನ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗೊಳಪಟ್ಟಂತೆ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಂದಾಯಿಸಿದ ಅರ್ಹ (ಸಿವಿಲ್) ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರುಗಳಿಂದ ಪಂಚಾಯತ್‌ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಕೆ.ಆರ್.ನಗರ ರವರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ನಮೂದಿಸಿರುವ ವಿವಿಧ ಲೆಕ್ಕಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆಯ ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯನ್ನು ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಲು https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

1) ಇ–ಪ್ರೋಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಷೆಡ್ಯೂಲ್–ಬಿ ಅಪ್ ಲೋಡ್ (Upload) ಮಾಡುವ ಅಂದಾಜು ದಿ: 05.01.2024ರ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 10.30 ಗಂಟೆಯಿಂದ 2) ಇ–ಪ್ರೋಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಷೆಡ್ಯೂಲ್ –ಬಿನಲ್ಲಿ ದರ ನಮೂದಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿ: 12.01.2024ರ ಸಂಜೆ 4.30 ಗಂಟೆಯ ವರೆಗೆ. 3) ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್(ಕೆಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ–1,2) ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿ: 13.01.2024ರ ಸಂಜೆ 5.00 ಗಂಟೆಯಿಂದ 4) ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್(ಕೆಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ–3) ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕವಾಗಿ ಅರ್ಹತೆಗೊಂಡ ನಂತರ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ವಿವರ

ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು	ಕೆ.ಆರ್.ನಗರ	ಹುಣಸೂರು	ಪಿರಿಯಾಪಟ್ಟಣ	ಹೆಚ್.ಡಿ.ಕೋಟೆ	ಒಟ್ಟು
ಒಟ್ಟು ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ	3	2	2	2	09
ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ	2	2	2	0	06
ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಜಾತಿ ಮೀಸಲಾತಿ	0	0	0	02	02
ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಪಂಗಡ ಮೀಸಲಾತಿ	1	0	0	0	01

ಆನ್ ಲೈನ್ ನಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು, ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ನಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿರುವವರನ್ನು ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಲು ಕೋರಿದೆ. ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ 08223–262228.

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್, ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಕೆ.ಆರ್.ನಗರ

DIPR/DDMYS/KSMCA/852/2023-24

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is represented to the undersigned advocate by the respective owners that the below mentioned original documents all registered before the office of the Sub-Registrar, Devanahalli (except serial No. 13) pertaining to the below mentioned survey numbers, situated at Juttanahalli, Jalige and Aradeshanahalli Villages, Kundana Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District have been lost/misplaced:

1. Agreement of Sale dated 16/09/2015 entered between Smt. Nanjamma wife of Late Narayanappa and others in favour of Sri. Mallesha, son of Sri. Munibasappa, registered vide Document No.5300/2015-16 of Book I, stored in C.D. No. DNHD560, with respect to Survey No.16/1A measuring 1 acre of Juttanahalli Village.
2. Sale Deed dated 18/01/1971 executed by Sri. Bairappa, son of Sri. Junjappa in favour of Sri. Munishamappa son of Sri. Pillappa, registered vide Document No.2958/1970-71 of Book I, Volume 1070, with respect to Survey No. 16/1 measuring 1 acre 25 guntas, Survey No. 30/1 and Survey No. 30/2, each measuring 17 ½ guntas of Juttanahalli Village.
3. Sale Deed dated 14/11/1944 executed by Sri. Appanna, son of Sri. Nagamangala Muniyappa and others in favour of Sri. Anjinappa, son of Sri. Subbanna registered vide Document No. 734/1944-45 of Book I, Volume 483, at Pages 48 to 51, with respect to Survey No. 25/4 and Survey No. 25/5, each measuring 22 guntas of Juttanahalli Village.
4. Sale Deed dated 21/05/1962 executed by Sri. Anjinappa, son of Sri. Makkarappa Basappa in favour of Sri. Hanumatharayappa, son of Sri. Channappa registered vide Document No. 414/1962-63 of Book I, Volume 843, at Pages 229 to 231, with respect to Survey No. 26/2 measuring 3 acres 02 guntas of Juttanahalli Village.
5. Sale Deed dated 25/01/1965 executed by Sri. Hanumatharayappa, son of Sri. Channappa in favour of Sri. Appanna, son of Sri. Thammanappa registered vide Document No. 3178/1964-65 of Book I, Volume 921, at Pages 61 to 63, with respect to Survey No. 26/2 measuring 3 acres 02 guntas of Juttanahalli Village.
6. Sale Deed dated 23/05/1968 executed by Sri. Appanna, son of Sri. Thammanappa in favour of Sri. Kempaiah, son of Sri. Huchappa registered vide Document No. 637/1968-69 of Book I, Volume 1004, at Pages 198 and 199, with respect to Survey No. 26/2 measuring 3 acres 02 guntas of Juttanahalli Village.
7. Sale Deed dated 21/06/1971 executed by Sri. Kempaiah, son of Sri. Huchappa in favour of Sri. Chikkappanna, son of Sri. Munisonappa registered vide Document No. 833/1971-72 of Book I, Volume 1080, at Pages 122 and 123, with respect to Survey No. 26/2 measuring 3 acres 02 guntas of Juttanahalli Village.
8. Sale Deed dated 12/05/1975 executed by Sri. Chikkappanna, son of Sri. Munisonappa in favour of Sri. Dodda Anjinappa, son of Sri. Hanumantharayappa registered vide Document No. 348/1975-76 of Book I, Volume 1172, at Pages 01 and 02, with respect to Survey No. 26/2 measuring 3 acres 02 guntas of Juttanahalli Village.
9. Sale Deed dated 07/08/1978 executed by Sri. Dodda Anjinappa, son of Sri. Hanumantharayappa in favour of Smt. Baiyamma, wife of Sri. Anjinappa registered vide Document No. 917/1978-79 of Book I, Volume 1228, at Pages 28 and 29, with respect to Survey No. 26/2 measuring 3 acres 02 guntas of Juttanahalli Village.
10. Sale Deed dated 31/12/1979 executed by Sri. Hanumantha Gowda and Sri. Kempegowda, both sons of Sri. A. Channappa, in favour of Sri. M. Vasu, son of Sri. Y. Munishamappa, registered vide Document No. 1218/1979-80 of Book I, Volume 1243, at Pages 176 to 178, with respect to Survey No.26/3 measuring 5 acres 30 guntas of Aradeshanahalli Village.
11. Sale Deed dated 03/08/1983 executed by Sri. M. Vasu, son of Sri. Y. Munishamappa in favour of Smt. Channamma, wife of Late Kempegowda, registered vide Document No. 624/1983-84 of Book I, Volume 1288, at Pages 129 to 132, with respect to Survey No.26/3 measuring 5 acres 30 guntas of Aradeshanahalli Village.
12. Sale Deed dated 24/08/1983 executed by Smt. Channamma, wife of Late Kempegowda and others, in favour of Sri. C. Munishamappa, son of Sri. Doddapapanna, registered vide Document No. 695/1983-84 of Book I, Volume 1287, at Pages 214 to 217, with respect to Survey No.26/3 measuring 5 acres 30 guntas of Aradeshanahalli Village.
13. General Power of Attorney dated 21/12/2012 executed by Sri. A. M. Siddappa, son of Late C. Munishamappa and others in favour of Sri. D. G. Appayanna, son of Sri. Gaalappa, registered vide Document No. HSR-4-00060/2012-13 of Book IV, stored in C. D. No. HSRD135, in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Gandhinagar (Hesaraghatta), Bengaluru with respect to Survey No.26/3 measuring 5 acres 30 guntas of Aradeshanahalli Village.
14. Sale Deed dated 31/12/1979 executed by Sri. Hanumantha Gowda and Sri. Kempegowda, both sons of Sri. A. Channappa, in favour of Sri. Krishnappa, son of Sri. Mariyappa, registered vide Document No. 1219/1979-80 of Book I, Volume 1244, at Pages 101 to 102, with respect to Survey No.26/4 measuring 1 acre 19 guntas of Aradeshanahalli Village.
15. Sale Deed dated 29/07/1970 executed by Sri. S.A. Subbe Gowda, son of Sri. Anjinappa in favour of Sri. Ayyappana, son of Sri. Kempanna registered vide Document No. 1255/1970-71 of Book I, Volume 1059, at Pages 148 to 149, with respect to Survey No.30/1 and Survey No. 30/2, each measuring 17½ guntas of Juttanahalli Village.
16. Sale Deed dated 23/06/2005 executed by Smt. Nanjamma, wife of Late Narayanappa and others in favour of Sri. K. Nagaraju, son of Sri. Krishnappa registered vide Document No. DNH-1-1440/2005-06 of Book I, stored in CD No. DNHD52, in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Devanahalli with respect to portion of Survey No.30 measuring 17½ Guntas of Juttanahalli Village.
17. Sale Deed dated 18/01/1971 executed by Sri. Byrappa, son of Sri. Junjappa in favour of Sri. Munishamappa, son of Pillappa registered vide Document No. 2958/1970-71 of Book I, Volume 1070, at Pages 86 to 87, with respect to Survey No.30/1 measuring 17½ guntas and Survey No. 30/2 measuring 17½ guntas of Juttanahalli Village.
18. Sale Deed dated 06/04/1959 executed by Sri. Thayappa and Sri. Bachanna both sons of Sri. Kempanna in favour of Sri. Maligappachar, son of Sri. Appayannachar, registered vide Document No. 23/1959-60 of Book I, Volume 752, Pages 45 to 47 with respect to Survey No. 32, measuring 3 acres 28 guntas of Juttanahalli Village.
19. Sale Deed dated 03/11/1959 executed by Sri. Maligappachar, son of Sri. Appayannachar in favour of Sri. Thayappa, son of Sri. Kempanna, registered vide Document No. 1962/1959-60 of Book I, Volume 768, Pages 190 to 192, with respect to Survey No. 32, measuring 3 acres 28 guntas of Juttanahalli Village.
20. Sale Deed dated 22/04/1963 executed by Sri. Thayappa and Sri. Bachanna both sons of Sri. Kempanna in favour of Sri. Marappa, son of Sri. Muniyappa registered vide Document No. 219/1963-64 of Book I, Volume 869, Pages 200 to 203 with respect to Survey Nos. 32/2, measuring 3 acres 34 guntas of Juttanahalli Village.
21. Absolute Sale Deed dated 16/07/2005 executed by Sri. Muniraju alias Munirajappa and others in favour of Sri. Venkataswamy, son of Sri. Narayana Bhovi, registered vide Document No. DNH-1-01899/2005-06 of Book I, stored in CD No. DNHD 55 with respect to Survey No. 32/2 measuring 30 guntas of Juttanahalli Village.
22. Absolute Sale Deed dated 22/03/2006 executed by Sri. Venkataswamy, son of Sri. Narayana Bhovi and others in favour of Smt. Kamakshi, wife of Sri. Murthy, registered vide Document No. DNH-1-07673/2005-06 of Book I, stored in CD No. DNHD 82, with respect to Survey No. 32/2, measuring 30 guntas of Juttanahalli Village.
23. Sale Deed dated 08/03/2006 executed by Sri. Muniraju alias Munirajappa and others in favour of Sri. Rajanna alias N. Rajanna, son of Sri. Narayanappa, registered vide Document No. DNH-1-07173/2006-07 of Book I, stored in CD No. DNHD 80 with respect to Survey No. 32/2, measuring 16 guntas of Juttanahalli Village.
24. Sale Agreement dated 27/09/2014 entered between Sri. Muniraju alias Munirajappa and others with Railway Employees Co-operative Housing Society and Raajamanikya Builders and Developers, registered vide Document No. 4908/2014-15 of Book I, stored in CD No. 410, with respect to Survey No. 32/2, measuring 30 guntas of Juttanahalli Village.
25. Sale Agreement dated 05/09/2014 entered between Sri. Doddamuniyappa, son of Sri. Munimarappa and others with M/s. Railway Employees Co-operative Housing Society and M/s. Raajamanikya Builders and Developers, registered vide Document No. 4064/2014-15 of Book I, stored in CD No. 399, with respect to Survey No. 32/2, measuring 1 acre 38 guntas of Juttanahalli Village.
26. Sale Deed dated 07/07/1975 executed by Sri. Subbe Gowda, son of Sri. Anjinappa in favour of Sri. Narayanappa, son of Sri. Marappa, registered vide Document No. 891/1975-76 of Book I, Volume 1180, Pages 41 to 43, with respect to Survey No. 33/2 measuring 01 acre 25 guntas of Juttanahalli Village.
27. Sale Deed dated 30/09/1959 executed by Sri. Muniyappa son of Sri. Gopalappa in favour of Sri. Karahalli Munishamappa, son of Sri. Sonnappa and Sri. Appaiah, son of Sri. Jalige Munisonnappa registered vide Document No. 1671/1959-60, of Book I, Volume 766, at Pages 165 to 167, with respect to Survey No. 99/1 measuring 1 acre 29 guntas and Survey No. 100/2 measuring 1 acre 12 guntas of Jalige Village.
28. Sale Deed dated 08/05/1968 executed by Sri. Karahalli Munishamappa, son of Sri. Sonnappa and Sri. Appaiah, son of Sri. Jalige Munisonnappa in favour of Sri. Naige Muniyappa, son of Sri. Gopalappa registered vide Document No. 572/1968-69, of Book I, Volume 1003, at Pages 243 to 244 with respect to Survey Nos. 99/1 measuring 1 acre 29 guntas and Survey No. 100/2 measuring 1 acre 12 guntas of Jalige Village.
29. Sale Deed dated 15/06/2017 and conveyance executed by Smt. Gopamma, daughter of Late Muniyappa, Sri. Gopalappa, son of Late Muniyappa and others in favour of Sri. Chethan Kumar C, son of Sri. Channappa registered vide Document No. DNH-1-02371/2017-18, of Book I, stored in CD No. DNHD642, with respect to Survey No. 100/2 measuring 1 acre 12 guntas of Jalige Village.
30. Sale Deed dated 02/07/1953 executed by Sri. Chikka Appaiah, son of Venkataramanappa in favour of Sri. Veeranna, son of Sri. Doddanna registered vide Document No. 1026/1953-54 of Book I, Volume 631, at Pages 143 and 144, with respect to Survey Nos. 100/1 measuring 27 guntas and Survey No. 100/3 measuring 27 guntas of Jalige Village.
31. Sale Deed dated 20/01/1955 executed by Sri. Veeranna, son of Sri. Gattera Doddanna in favour of Sri. Chikka Appaiah, son of Sri. Koratagere Venkataramanappa registered vide Document No. 1950/1954-55, of Book I, Volume 656, at Pages 103 to 104, with respect to Survey No. 100/1 measuring 27 guntas and Survey No. 100/3 measuring 27 guntas of Jalige Village.
32. Sale Deed dated 12/11/1959 executed by Sri. Nambeppa, son of Sri. Venkataramanappa, in favour of Sri. Thammannappa, son of Sri. Karahalli Basappa, registered vide Document No.2044/1959-60 of Book I, Volume 769, Pages 82 to 83, with respect to Survey No. 101 measuring 2 acre 21 guntas of Jalige Village.
33. Sale Deed dated 08/02/1996 executed by Sri. Thammannappa, son of Late Karahalli Basappa in favour of Sri. N. Krishnappa, son of Late Nambeppa alias Nandiyappa alias Nambiyappa, registered vide Document No. 2880/1995-96 of Book I, Volume 1656, Pages 70 to 83 with respect to Survey No. 101/2 measuring 1 acre 10 guntas of Jalige Village.
34. Sale Deed dated 18/03/1964 executed by Sri. Channappa, son of Sri. Subbanna in favour of Sri. Subbaiah, son Sri. Subbaiah, registered vide Document No. 3053/63-64 of Book I, Volume 895, Pages 92 to 94, with respect to Survey No. 102/1 measuring 1 acre 16 guntas of Jalige Village.
35. Sale Deed dated 02/09/1969 executed by Sri. Subbaiah, son Sri. Subbaiah in favour of Sri. Nanjundappa son of Sri. Anjinappa, registered vide Document No. 1856/69-70 of Book I, Volume 1035, Pages 218 to 219 with respect to Survey No. 102/1 measuring 28 guntas of Jalige Village.
36. Sale Deed dated 02/09/1969 executed by Sri.Subbaiah, son Sri. Subbaiah in favour of Smt. Muniakkayamma, wife of Sri. Nanjundappa, registered vide Document No. 1857/69-70 of Book I, Volume 1037, Pages 34 to 35, with respect to Survey No. 102/1 measuring 28 guntas of Jalige Village.
37. Gift Deed dated 29/05/2005 executed by Smt. Kamalamma, wife of Late Ramachandrappa in favour of Ms. R. Bhagyamma and Ms. K. R. Aruna Kumari, registered vide Document No. DNH-1-01523/2005-06 of Book I, stored in CD No. DNHD53, with respect to Survey No. 102/1 measuring 1 acre 16 guntas of Jalige Village.
38. Gift Deed dated 13/11/2008 executed by Smt. Seethamma, wife of Sri. Nagaraju alias Nagarajappa in favour of Sri. N. Somashekar, son of Sri. Nagaraju alias Nagarajappa registered vide Document No. DNH-1-04369/08-09 of Book I, stored in CD No. DNKD165, with respect to Survey No. 102/2 measuring 1 acre 16 guntas of Jalige Village.

It is further represented that the Owners have not mortgaged and have not created any lien or encumbered the respective properties mentioned above in any manner. Any person/s in possession of the aforesaid original documents shall return the same to the undersigned or lodge their claims with documentary evidence within seven (07) days from the date of this notice.

Jayanth M Pattanshetti, Advocate,
Jayanth Pattanshetti Associates LLP
102, Ground Floor 'Rams Infantry Manor",
No.70, Infantry Road, Bengaluru-560001.
Ph: **080 41238516 / 41238367**

Place: Bengaluru
Date: 05/01/2024

PUBLIC NOTICE

NATIONAL CONSUMER DISPUTES REDRESSAL COMMISSION
Upbhokta Nyay Bhawan, "F" Block, General Pool Office Complex, INA, NEW DELHI - 110023
Telephone No: 24608760, Fax No: 24651519
Website: http//ncdrc.nic.in

CONSUMER COMPLAINT NO. 3465 of 2017

Alok Mishra & Ors. ...Complainants

Versus

M/s Bafna Realtors Pvt. Ltd. & Anr.

To,

THE PURCHASERS/ALLOTTEES OF THE RESIDENTIAL PLOTS IN THE PROJECT NAMELY "Spring Gardens" at a Location right in the middle of IT Bengaluru, i.e. Sy. 41,42, 73/2, 20/3A, 30/3B, 20/4, 45/4, and 82/1 etc. of Handenahalli Village, Sarajapur Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru District.

Whereas the above complainants have through **Mr. SOVI BIPNEET SINGH, ADVOCATE** Chamber No. 73, Civil Wing, Tis Hazari, Delhi – 110054, Mob. 9811218405 filed the captioned Consumer Complaint before the Hon'ble National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission, New Delhi on behalf and/or for the benefit of all the consumers who have either booked or have been allotted a plot in the project namely **"SPRING GARDENS"** being developed by the opposite party named above for Redressal of their common grievances and seeking the following reliefs.

1. Develop the project "Spring Gardens" Sy. 41,42, 73/2, 20/3A, 30/3B, 20/4, 45/4, etc. of Handenahalli Village, Sarajapur Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru District as well as in 82/1 of S. Medahalli Village, Sarajapur Hobli, Anekal Taluk Bengaluru District Hand in terms of Development Agreements entered between the Opposite Party no. 2 and the Complainant (which includes all the other buyer) within reasonable time as this Hon'ble commission deem fit and proper and hand over STP with related equipment like submersible pumps and equipment to run STP to the complaints (which includes all the other buyers) along with all related legal documents including the original BMRDA plan with released plan (original), STP and water connection drawing, water Tank drawing and after release of site – 100% release order (original) etc. to the purchasers of plot of land in the said project, including the Complaints, as agreed by it in the Meeting held on 30th May 2015 within such reasonable period as this Hon'ble court deem fit and proper.
2. To pay a delay penalty on the amount paid by the complaints as stated in paras 10, 11 and 12 along with interest @18% from 1st April 2007 till its realization.

- OR IN THE ALTERNATE -

1. To refund the full amount received in respect of the said plots of land as well as full amount received for developing and maintaining the project Spring Gardens to the Complaints as stated in paras 10,11, and 12 of the complaint and to all purchasers of plots in the project Spring Gardens along with interest @18% per annum thereupon from the respective date(s) of payments till the date of realization of the same.

C) Direct the Registry of the Hon'ble commission to issue a Public Notice in leading newspapers both Hindi and English informing the Public at large/buyers, who have booked the residential unit in the project in question, about the present proceedings so that they can also join as complaint in the instant case

D) Award compensation of Rs. 10,00,000/- each to the respective complaints and other buyers for causing mental harassment, tension, agency etc.

E) Cost of the present proceedings may also be directed to be recovered from the opposite parties.

F) Pass such other or further order(s) as this Hon'ble commission may deem fit and proper in the fact and circumstances of the present case.

And whereas the Hon'ble commission vide its order dated 24.11.2023 is pleased to direct issue of notice of the institution of the above captioned complaint to all the consumers having same interest in the matter. Accordingly all allottees of the above referred Project having the same grievance against the Opposite Party, may appear before the Commission in-person or through an Advocate/Authorized Representative on **15.03.2024 at 10.30 a.m.** they can inspect the file of the aforementioned complaint in the office of the Counsel for the Complainant(s) and apply for being impleaded as a party to the complaint.

They may also note that the decision of the commission in the captioned complaint will be binding on all the consumers on whose behalf and/ or for whose benefit the complaint is instituted.

Given under my hand and the seal of this Commission on this 8th day of December, 2023.

By Order
(Pradeep Majumdar)
Section Officer

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JANUARY 2024

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TAMILNADU INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED (TIDCO)
CIN-U65993TN1965SGC005327

E-Tender Notice No. TCA/Fintech/2024/01 Dated 05/01/2024

E- Tender cum E- Forward Auction

TIDCO invites bids from eligible bidders through e-Tender cum e- Forward Auction for selection of a Lessee to grant Long Leasing rights for 99 years of the following Developed Vacant Plot at Fintech City Nandambakkam, Chennai

S.No	Plot No	Tentative Plot Area (Acre)
1.	S15	1.5
2.	S16	1.5

Interested Bidders can download the tender document from **https://tidco.com** and **https://tntenders.gov.in** at free of cost.

The Scheduled for bidding process is as follows:-

1. Last date and time for submission of Proposals/ Bids is on or before **3.00 P.M** on **6.02.2024** through **https://tntenders.gov.in**
2. Opening of Technical Proposals / Bids is at **3.30 P.M** on **7.02.2024** at **TIDCO Office**
3. Any subsequent notification on the tender would be published on the above website.

MANAGING DIRECTOR
Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation Limited
19-A, Rukmini Lakshmipathy Road, Egmore, Chennai – 600 008.
E- mail: cmd@tidco.com, it@tidco.com Phone: +91 44 28554479 Website: https://tidco.com

DIPR/ 09 /DISPLAY/2024

BEFORE THE HON'BLE KARNATAKA ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
#16C-1, MILLER TANK BED AREA,
VASANTHANAGAR, BENGALURU- 560 052.

IN THE MATTER OF:

Application under Section 62 and 64 of Electricity Act 2003 read with KERC (Tariff) Regulations 2000 and KERC (Terms and Conditions for Determination of Transmission Tariff) Regulations 2006 for approval of Annual Performance Review (APR) for FY 2022-23.

Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Ltd (KPTCL)
Kaveri Bhavan, Bengaluru - 560 009 **..... Applicant**

NOTIFICATION

NOTIFICATION of APR FOR FY 2022-23

1.0 In accordance with KERC (Terms and Conditions for Determination of Transmission Tariff) Regulations 2006, and its amendments from time to time, the Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited (KPTCL) has filed its Annual Performance Review (APR) for FY 2022-23 and related proposal for revision of Annual Transmission Tariff before KERC for approval. The application of KPTCL is under consideration of KERC.

2.0 In the APR Application for FY 2022-23, KPTCL has sought revised Annual Revenue Requirement(ARR) of **Rs. 5146.18** Crore. The revenue gap claimed is **Rs. 1701.05** Crore, which is requested to be approved for recovery during FY 2024-25.

3.0 In accordance with the provisions of Electricity Act 2003, and KERC (Tariff) Regulations 2000 and KERC (Terms and Conditions for Determination of Transmission Tariff) Regulations 2006 and its amendments from time to time, it is hereby notified that persons who are interested in filing their objections to the above application may file the same with the **RECEIVING OFFICER, KERC, #16 C-1, MILLER TANK BED AREA, VASANTHANAGARA, BENGALURU-560052** along with the documents which they want to rely upon, in six sets duly supported by an affidavit within **30 days** from the date of the first publication of this Notification.

4.0 For reference of those who are interested, copies of the KPTCL's Annual Performance Review (APR) application are available for inspection and for purchase at the following offices:

(1) Office of the Chief Engineer (Electy), Transmission Zone, KPTCL, Bengaluru, Tumakuru, Hassan, Mysuru, Bagalkote and Kalaburagi.

(2) The Accounts Officer (Public Relations), Corporate Office, KPTCL, Ground Floor, Kaveri Bhavan, Bengaluru.

(3) Corporate Offices of Electricity Supply Companies (ESCOMs) situated at Bengaluru, Mysuru, Mangaluru, Hubballi and Kalaburagi.

5.0 A full set of application is made available to the interested persons at the above offices on payment of **Rs.114/-** for Kannada and English versions for each set of APR application by cash or DD or they may also obtain required portion of the application, by paying photo copying charges @ **Rs. 1/-** per page within **10 working days** from the date of first publication of the notification. These documents are also available on the website of **KPTCL https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in**

6.0 The objections have to be **filed with KERC only.** But as directed by KERC, in order to expedite the process of objection filing and replies thereon, the objectors are also requested to simultaneously send a copy of their objections directly to the **Managing Director, KPTCL, Corporate Office, Kaveri Bhavan, Bengaluru-560009.** The last date for receipt of public objections is **30 days** from the date of first publication.

For Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited
Sd/-
Managing Director,
KPTCL, Kaveri Bhavan, Bengaluru - 560 009.

High Court to frame charges against makers of documentary 'Wild Karnataka' for violating court's order

Charges will also be framed against Discovery and BBC channels, Netflix, and UK-based producer and distributors of film

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has ordered framing of charges against film makers Sarath Champati, Kalyan Varma, and Amoghavarhaa J.S. of the documentary "Wild Karnataka", representatives of television channels, Discovery India and BBC United Kingdom, and over-the-top streaming platform Netflix, for airing the film and its footages/clippings in violation of the court's June 2021 interim order.

The charges will also be framed against representatives of the film's U.K.-based producer, Icon Films Ltd., distributor ITV Studios Global Distribution Ltd.

"At this stage, we are only considering the prima facie case to direct the accused to answer the charge. The material on record shows that even after the interim order, the footage was on air, no matter broadcast by whom. To record a precise finding with regard to involvement of the accused, trial is necessary. In our opinion, there is sufficient material on record to frame the charges against the accused," the court observed.

A division bench comprising Justice P.S. Dinesh Kumar and Justice T.G. Shivashankare Gowda passed the interim order on January 3 on a contempt of court petition filed by the Ravindra N. Redkar, and Ullash Kumar R.K, who had filed a PIL against airing of the film.

The High Court, acting on the PIL petition, had on June 29, 2021, restrained the film makers, their firm, Bengaluru-based Mudskipper Labs Pvt Ltd, and anyone from "using, publishing, reproducing, broadcasting, telecasting, marketing, selling, distributing, exhibiting or in any way dealing with the film or any part of it or the raw footage captured by the film makers through their Memorandum of Understanding signed by the Karnataka Forest Department in 2014."

It was alleged in the PIL petition, filed on june 22, 2021, and pending adjudication, that though the film was intended to be on a non-profit basis to promote conservation and for educational purpose, the film makers had pocked millions of rupees by commercially selling it for profit without the knowledge or approval of the KFD.

The film has been distributed in over 100 countries, to airlines, broadcasters, networks, channels, streaming partners, and theatres without remitting any amount to Tiger Conservation Foundation (TFC) as was required in terms of the MoU, it was alleged in the petition. The government in August 2022 had told the court that Principal Accountant General had been asked to audit the "Wild Karnataka" project.

Contempt petition

The petitioners filed contempt of court petition in November, 2021, alleging that initially the footages of the film was telecast on Discovery channel in July, 2021, in violation of the court's order. Later the petitioners impleaded BBC and Netflix. The petitioners have alleged that Netfilx had streamed some footages of the film during early 2023 and 'BBC America', a subsidiary of BBC, U.K., had telecast the film/footages till December 2023 despite admitting that it had come to know about court's order way back in March-April, 2023.

During earlier hearings on contempt petition, Icon Films had offered to pay £15,000 to TCF and the court, at one stage, had had suggested that it can consider giving quietus if other accused too consider paying substantial amount to TCF under their Corporate Social Responsibility obligation.

Though some other accused, except representative of BBC, submitted their proposal on donating to TCF, the Bench said that the fact remains that it's June 2021 interim order stands violated while directing the accused to be present in the court or through video conference on January 8.

Notice served on businesses operating from shacks for violation of tax norms

Shreyas H.S.
BENGALURU

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) is issuing notices to business establishments running from shacks and petty shops for violation of property tax norms. The shops, despite running commercial establishments, were paying property tax categorised as residential properties.

The BBMP was able to track down these violators through Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited (Bescom) bills. Although the property owners were paying residential property tax, they have been availing of commercial power supply. According to BBMP, through this mode about 15,000 violators were served notices over the last three months.

The problem with such property owners is that they have to pay the tax with retrospective effect, which is a huge sum.

The violators are directed to pay the commercial price of the tax from the day they availed of the power connection, besides paying penalties and interests on the annual tax amount.

A property owner from the city where a small hotel is being run has to now shell out more than ₹3.5 lakh for six years. The shop has now been shut by the civic body. Ramesh Rai (name changed), talking to *The Hindu*, said while he is at fault for not paying commercial property tax, the government should come up with an amicable solution as many do not have enough cash to pay. The BBMP officials are saying there will be no waiver on the total amount. Ramesh was earlier paying ₹600 residential property tax, and commercial property tax price is pegged at ₹14,000

Another shop owner from K.R. Puram, who runs a bakery, is asked to pay about ₹4 lakhs, and he says it will be difficult for him to pay the amount. He urged the BBMP to come up with a flexible solution to save the shops.

BBMP Special Commissioner (Revenue), Munish Modgil said through Bescom bills the BBMP has managed to identify 12,000 to 15,000 violators and had served them notices.

BBMP to serve notices on Kannada signboard violators

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Many shops with prominent English signboards on S.P. Road.
SUDHAKARA JAIN

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Chief Commissioner, Tushar Giri Nath directed the officials to issue notices to shops for creating awareness on Kannada Language Comprehensive Development Act 2022.

Mr. Giri Nath said during the survey conducted by the civic body, if the shop was found not adhering to 60:40 ratio, then a notice should be served. The notice will spread awareness of the law, he said. The BBMP will not just look into signboards but also into trade licences . The shops are mandated to obtain licences from the civic body. If the shops were found not having the licences then notices will be served asking why the shops cannot be shut. The shops should immediately apply for licences. Mr. Giri Nath further directed the officials to take stringent action against those who fail to put 60% of Kannada on the board. Recently the Karnataka Rakshana Vedike members resorted to vandalism pelting stones at shops which did not have Kannada signboards. After this the State government said it will promulgate an ordinance to bring more clarity on 60:40 .

SPOTLIGHT
» PAGE 8

Christ university education and career fair 'DAKSH' on Jan. 5 and 6

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Christ (Deemed to be University) will host its annual education and career fair 'DAKSH' on January 5 and 6. *The Hindu* is the official media partner for the event.

DAKSH will be held on the university's central campus in the city from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. on both days. The fair will help students, parents, and educators, to understand options for higher education and career paths.

There will be over 110 educational stalls at the campus, offering engaging interactions with alumni and professors of various disciplines.

Online stalls

The online stalls, accessible through DAKSH website, set from 5 p.m. onwards, promises guidance and assistance to people across the world.

Scion of erstwhile Mysore royal family Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar will be the chief guest, apart from speakers including retired DGP Amar Kumar Pandey; V.R. Raman, executive director, Centre for Budget and Governance Accountability; Mrinal Satish, Dean, National Law School, and research scientist from Nyobolt, U.K. Supreeth Nagendran.

The varsity will also host an open day along with DAKSH, offering an opportunity for the attendees to engage with the faculty, students, and alumni.

Five arrested

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

Sakleshpur Rural Police arrested five persons on the charge of unauthorised handover of a newborn male.

The arrested persons are Girija, mother of the baby; Sumithra, an anganwadi worker, Usha of Hassan who took the baby; and Shrikanth and Subramanya, who allegedly played a part in the incident.

Timings
BENGALURU

FRIDAY, JAN. 05		
RISE	06:43	SET 18:06
RISE	00:51	SET 12:52
SATURDAY, JAN. 06		
RISE	06:43	SET 18:07
RISE	01:39	SET 13:30
SUNDAY, JAN. 07		
RISE	06:44	SET 18:08
RISE	02:29	SET 14:13

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	28	22
Mysuru	28	22
Bengaluru	29	19

Bengaluru Today
25°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be pleasant but humid. Night also will be pleasant. Spell of light rain and thundershower to occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
24°C The weather will be pleasant but humid. Spell of light to moderate rain and thundershower to occur.

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THE HINDU
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Jayalakshmi Vilas Mansion gets over ₹30 crore for restoration

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

The nearly 120-year-old Jayalakshmi Vilas Mansion belonging to the University of Mysore will be restored to its original glory at a cost of around ₹30 crore.

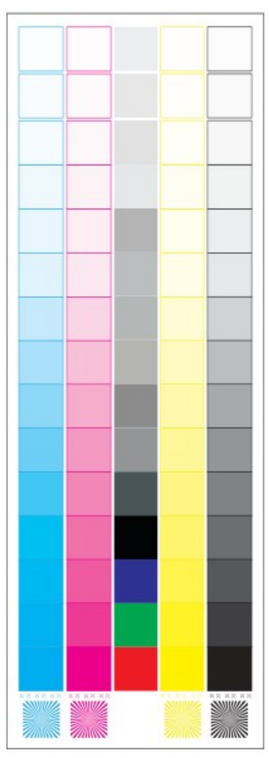
While the Harish & Bina Shah Foundation (HBSF) has agreed to contribute ₹30 crore, the US government's Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation (AFCP) will chip in with nearly ₹2.5 crore ($300,000).

The restoration will be carried out by Deccan Heritage Foundation, which specialises in conservation of historic structures and has worked on projects in Hampi, Hyderabad and Kalaburagi.

A memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the varsity and the two funding organisations was exchanged in Mysuru on January 4 in the presence of Latha Reddy, Chairperson, Deccan Heritage Foundation India.

US Consul General Chennai Christopher W. Hodges said that the conservation project at the Jayalakshmi Vilas Mansion is yet another testament to America's friendship and respect for the people of India and its rich cultural heritage. The US has partnered with India to support 24 such projects through AFCP in the past 20 years. The AFCP grant of $300,000 to the University of Mysore is the second-largest awarded in India in the last 20 years, he said.

The project will bring together conservation and museum experts, architects, designers and skilled crafts persons - all with a shared passion for preserving and protecting India's cultural heritage in Karnataka. The mansion has around 125 rooms and 300 windows, and 280 carved doors. It houses the varsity's folklore museum, which was established in 1969.



U.S. diplomat visits Oriental Research Institute

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

The U.S. Consul General Christopher W. Hodges visited the Oriental Research Institute (ORI) in the city and apprised himself of the rich collection of palm leaf manuscripts and their digitalisation which is under way, on Thursday.

The ORI has a collection of nearly 40,000 palm leaves and paper manuscripts and some of the rare works include that of Kautilya's Arthashastra.

Consul General Hodges showed interest in the manuscript of Arthashastra to preserve which special care has been taken by the ORI.

D.P. Madhusudanacharya, Director, ORI explained the significance of the work and its history to Mr. Hodges and said that the complete palm-leaf manuscript of Arthashastra in Granta script was discovered and edited for the first time by Dr. R. Shamashastri, a well-known scholar.

The building housing the ORI was completed in 1887 to commemorate the golden jubilee of Queen Victoria's ascension to the British throne.

Health Dept. asks TAC's opinion on suitable clinical protocols for patients with comorbidities

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU

With a rise in COVID-19 deaths and the State Death Audit Committee's analysis that most of those who died since December 15 are due to poor management of their comorbidities and complications arising out of it, the Health Department has sought the COVID-19 Technical Advisory Committee's (TAC) opinion on suitable clinical protocols for such patients.

Targeted treatment

The TAC that met on Thursday - ahead of the Cabinet sub-committee's second meeting scheduled to be held on Friday - discussed this along with the need to focus on targeted treatment of comorbidities.

"With a low hospitalisation rate, there is adequate availability of COVID beds in government hospitals designated for COVID treatment. Those with comorbidities who test positive for COVID should be admitted for treatment without any delay. Following deliberations, the TAC is likely to make suitable recommendations regarding this," sources said.

Four more deaths were reported on Thursday taking the total number of deaths since mid December to 20.

The Death Audit Committee that had analysed ten of these deaths till January 1 had found COVID to be an incidental finding in nine deaths.

Early triaging

State Health Commissioner Randeep D. told *The Hindu* that early and proper triaging in comorbid COVID-19 patients is very important in light of the Death Audit committee's analysis.

"We have sought the TAC's opinion on how the existing clinical protocols can be aligned to suit the present COVID scenario. People need not panic as although the JN.1 sub-variant is highly transmissible, the virulence is not high," he said.

Besides, the TAC has also been asked to recommend if the existing COVID testing and whole genome sequencing (WGS) strategies need to be revised, the Commissioner said.

As of Thursday, the State has reported 199 JN.1 cases (76% of the 262 samples whose WGS results are available so far).

PHANA's suggestions

"The Private Hospitals and Nursing Homes Association (PHANA) has suggested that masks should be made mandatory in public places, especially in the international airport. They have also said that testing should be done at the airport too. I have referred this to the TAC," Mr. Randeep said. PHANA president Govindaiah Yateesh said the association recently submitted a memorandum to the Health Minister extending support to the government in handling the JN.1 surge.

"As of now the situation is not alarming. However, in the event of a surge, private hospitals will abide by the government's decision in all aspects including bed allotment," he said.

> The PHANA has suggested that masks should be made mandatory in public places, especially in the international airport. They also said testing should be done at the airport too.
>
> **RANDEEP D.**
> State Health Commissioner

Four more COVID deaths

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Karnataka on Thursday reported four more COVID deaths taking the total number of deaths reported since December 15 to 20. The four deceased include a 60-year-old female from Mysuru diagnosed with SARI.

She was admitted to a government hospital on December 28 and died on January 3.

She is the only female patient among the 20 who died so far.

The other three include a 82-year-old and 64-year-old male patients from Bengaluru and a 63-year-old male from Dharwad. All of them were diagnosed with SARI or ILI. All the four had comorbidities.

1240 active cases

With 298 new cases, the total number of active cases in the State touched 1,240. Of these, 72 patients have been admitted to various hospitals. While nine of these patients are on oxygen support, nine are being treated in ICUs and three on ventilator support.

7,791 tests

As many as 7,791 tests were done in the last 24 hours including 6,900 RTPCR tests. With this, the day's test positivity rate (TPR) stood at 3.82%.

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10th century inscription found in Goa

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

An inscription written in Kannada and Sanskrit and said to be of Kadamba period 10th century A.D. has been discovered in the Mahadeva temple at Cacoda in southern Goa.

T. Murugeshi, a retired associate professor of ancient history and archaeology, Mulki Sundar Ram Shetty College, Shirva in Udupi district, studied the inscription. According to Mr. Murugeshi, its epigraph is engraved in Kannada and Nagari characters.

He states: "... The inscription opens with an auspicious word 'be it well' (Swasthi Shri), and records that when Talara Nevayya was administering the mandala, his son Gundayya having taken a vow to fulfil his father's desire of capturing a gopura of the port of Goa, fought and died after fulfilling his father's wish. Very interestingly, the record is composed as a vocal statement on the death of his son from the mouth of a lamenting father. It is in the literary style of Talangre inscription of Jayasimha I of the same period..."

Rajendra Kerkar, an environmentalist of Goa, found the inscription and informed Mr. Murugeshi.

"I am thankful to Dr. Kerkar, Munirathana Reddy, director (Epigraphy), and Nagarajappa, assistant epigraphist of the ASI, Mysuru, and R.K. Manipal, a Kannada scholar of Udupi, for their help in reading and interpreting the inscription," Mr. Murugeshi said.

Centre for classical Kannada unlikely to be housed in Jayalakshmi Vilas Mansion: Mysuru varsity VC

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

The Vice-Chancellor of the University of Mysore N.K. Lokanath said in Mysuru on Thursday that the Centre of Excellence for Studies in Classical Kannada (CESCK) may not be housed in the Jayalakshmi Vilas Mansion.

He was speaking at a media conference organised to announce the restoration of the heritage mansion with support from the U.S. Government's Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation (US-AFCP) and donation by Harish & Bina Shah Foundation.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
HUMAN SPACE FLIGHT CENTRE (HSFC),
Construction & Maintenance Group
Antariksh Bhavan, Bengaluru-560 094
Ph:080-22172614/2613

E-TENDER NOTICE

On behalf of the President of India, Online Item rate tenders are invited through E-tendering for the following works:

Title of work and NIT No.	**Construction of Fitting Shop for ECLSS Facility at Devanahalli, HSFC, Bengaluru (Civil Works) HSFC/CMG/MM/C/94/ 2023-24, Dt: 04.01.2024**
Estimated Cost put to tender	**Rs. 19.16 Lakhs**
Period of Completion	**03 Months**
Period during which the tender document can be downloaded	**From 05.01.2024 (11.00 Hrs.) to 16.01.2024 (23.30 hrs.)**
Due date and time of submission	**19.01.2024 up to 11.00 hrs.**
Date and time of opening of tenders	**19.01.2024 at 11.30 hrs.**
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	**Rs. 38,320/-**

Tender documents can be downloaded from website **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO** by registering with tender wizard and paying tender processing fee. The procedure for vendor registration is displayed in the above website.

Interested tenderers may please refer Detailed Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) from website **www.isro.gov.in** for further details and Purchase of tender documents visit: **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO**

Sd/- Head CMD, CMG, HSFC

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF SPACE,
HUMAN SPACE FLIGHT CENTRE (HSFC),
Construction & Maintenance Group (CMG),
Antariksh Bhavan, Bengaluru-94
Ph:080-22172614/2613/5610

Tender Notice No. HSFC/CMG/2(4)/C/99/2023-24 Dated: 04.01.2024

BRIEF NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

On behalf of the President of India, online item rate tenders are invited through E-tendering for the following work:

Title of work	**Construction of storm water drain and Bituminous finishing of approach Road for ECLSS facility at Devanahalli, HSFC, Bengaluru. (Civil work)**
Estimated cost put to tender	**₹68.20 Lakhs**
Period of completion in months reckoned from the 15th day of date of issue of work order.	**Four (04) Months**
Period during which the tender document can be requested	**From: 11:00 hrs on 05.01.2024 To: 23:30 hrs on 16.01.2024**
Period during which the tender document can be downloaded	**From: 11:10 hrs on 05.01.2024 To: 23:59 hrs on 16.01.2024**
Bid clarifications	**From: 11:30 hrs on 05.01.2024 To: 10:30 hrs on 17.01.2024**
Reply to Bid clarifications	**up to 17:00 hrs on 18.01.2024**
Last date and time for receipt of tenders.	**up to 11:00 hrs on 19.01.2024**
Due date and time of opening of tenders [Technical Bid]	**11:30 hrs on 19.01.2024**
Earnest Money Deposit [EMD]	**₹1,36,400/-**

Interested tenderers may please refer detailed E-tender (E-NIT) for eligibility criteria and other details, which can be downloaded from **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO**

Sd/- Head CMD, CMG, HSFC

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PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby informed to the public that my client Sri. Shivashankara Reddy N. has lost the Original Letter of Intent Doc. No. ALT/ DCS/YEL/C-4/84 dated 17.02.1984 & Possession Certificate dated 15.10.1984 while Transit at Cubbonpet for Xerox at 12.00 p.m. on 30.12.2023. The said documents were related to Shed No.C-4, Khatha No. 26/2849/C-4, Situated at Industrial Estate, Yelahanka, Bengaluru, measuring East to West 16.20 meters and North to South 22 meters, totally measuring 356.40 Sq.Mtrs., If any person/s who finds it, is requested to return the same to us at below mention address:

Subrahmanya Hegde, Advocate
ANANDA & HEGDE LAW ASSOCIATES,
#76-77, Krishna Krupa Building,
Ground Floor, 2nd Main Road,
Sheshadripuram, Bangalore-20.
Mob: 9060069259.

DEPARTMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGY, MUSEUM AND HERITAGE, MYSORE
Karnataka Exhibition Authority Premises, Mysuru-570010
Ph: 0821-2424673/74 Email :commr_amh@yahoo.in

No:DAMH/CW/T-8/2023-24 Date: 02.01.2024

TENDER NOTIFICATION

On behalf of the Governor of Karnataka, the department of Archaeology, Museum and Heritage, Mysuru has invited the itemwise tender for the 20 works (DAMH:2023-24:OW:WORK_INDENT-31 to To 44 & 12, 16, 19, 22, 28, 29/Call-2 under the standard tender documents KW-1 to 3. The minimum amount Rs.5.00 lakhs and Maximum amount Rs.84.63 lakhs kept for these tenders as per Standard Tender bid Document. Tender documents can be obtained through e-portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** from date **03.01.2024 onwards.**

Last date and time of any Queries for tender	Date: 12.01.2024 at 17.00 Hours
Last date and time of tender submission	Date 18.01.2024 at 16.00 Hours
Opening of Date and Time of Technical bid	Date 20.01.2024, 16.05 Hours
Opening of Date and Time of Financial bid	Date 22.01.2024, 11.00 Hours

Sd/- Commissioner,
Department of Archaeology, Musuems and Heritage, Mysore

DIPR/MYS/KAVITA/856/23-24

Karnataka Veterinary Animal and Fisheries Sciences University, Nandinagar Bidar

No.EO/KVAFSU/T.No.119/Works/2023-24 Date:03.01.2024

TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (e-Procurement portal only)

1) Works Details: Civil / Electrical works at different campuses of KVAFSU, Bidar 2) Tender Estimate Amount: Rs.11,29,81,000.00, 3) Contractors eligibility details : As mentioned e-portal, 4) Tender Amount Details: Rs.11,29,81,000.00, 5) Cost of tender form and EMD details: As mentioned e-portal, 6) Last date for submitting application: 15.02.2024 up to 5.00 PM, 7) Opening of Technical Bid (Two Cover Works): 19.02.2024 at 11.30 AM, 8) Opening of financial bid: 23.02.2024 at 11.30. AM, 9) For more details contact office address, contract numbers : Office of the Estate Officer KVAFSU, Nandinagar, Bidar 08482-245446, 10) Website details e-procurement portal- www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/- Estate Officer
KVAFSU, Bidar

DIPR/Bidar/212/KSMC&A/2023-24

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(BELLARY THERMAL POWER STATION)
CIN : U85110KA1970SGC001919

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through Kppp Portal only) (Two Cover System)

Tender are invited from the eligible bidders for the following works through **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in), (1) No. KPCL/2023-24/EL/WORK_INDENT 1052, Date: 29-12-2023, "Supply, installation testing & commissioning works of 2 sets of 110V, 120AH VRLA battery banks, along with retrofitting/ accommodation/installation, testing and commissioning of Bus coupler scheme & incomer-2 for newly installed battery bank including required electrical/mechanical modification works with supply of required complete materials at Intake PH(MAROL) & Intermediate Booster PH(ILKAL) of Narayanapura water supply projects". EMD Rs. 26,500/-.** Last Date for submission: **19.01.2024 up to 5:00 p.m. (2) No. KPCL/2023-24/OW/ WORK_INDENT1042, Date: 29-12-2023, Material handling works of Main stores including providing Hydra and Trailers at BTPS for a period of One Year at BTPS.** Last Date for submission: **13.01.2024 up to 4:00 p.m.** Further details can be had from the Office of the Executive Engineer, (ODY), **Mobile: 091416 19285, e-mail: eeodybtps@gmail.com (for Sl.No.1),** Executive Engineer, (Stores) BT, **Mobile: 094482 90787, E-mail: eestorebtps@gmail.com, (for Sl.No.2),** BTPS Kudathini-583 152, Bellary Dist.

BANGALORE URBAN ZILLA PANCHAYATH
Office of the Executive Engineer, Panchayath Raj Engineering Division, First Floor, Zilla Panchayath Building, S. Kariyappa Road, Banashankari, Bengaluru-560070.

No: EE/PRED/BNG(U)/TND/AE-1/24/2023-24 Date: 03.01.2024

TENDER NOTIFICATION No:24/2023-24
(Two Cover System) (Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal)

Tenders are invited through KPP Portal by the Executive Engineer, P.R.E.D, Bangalore Urban for KPS & Deposit Contribution Grants Works. The work details can be obtained from the KPPP Website. The Tender Documents can be obtained and submitted on or before: **20-01-2024 upto 4.00 PM.** Further details can be obtained from web site at **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** or contact this office during office working hours.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Panchayat Raj Engineering Division,
Bangalore Urban Dist. Bangalore

DIPR/CP/2851/SPAN/2023-24

Sreenidhi Souharda Sahakari Bank Niyamitha
No. 113, R. V. Road, V. V. Puram, Bangalore-560 004
Ph. No.: 080-26601152/153,9845753124/ 080-28435152/ 153, 8496005000; **E-mail:** sssbn4rgh@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE - POSSESSION NOTICE

Sri. Venkatesh

APPENDIX-IV
(See Rule 8(1)) r/w Sec. 13(4)(a)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of **M/s. Sreenidhi Souharda Sahakari Bank Niyamitha,** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 (Central Act No.54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12),13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued a demand notice **dated 03/11/2023** calling upon the Borrower **Sri. Venkatesh, Residing at No.159, Kanakapura Mian Road, Near Ravishankar Ashrama, Udayapura Post, Bangalore-560082.,** demanding to repay the amount of Two Loan Accounts Amounting to **Rs.20,73,881/- (Rupees Twenty Lakhs Seventy Three Thousand Eight Hundred and Eighty One** only together with Interest and Costs thereon, being the loan amount due by him, **within 60 days** from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower has failed to repay the said amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property mortgaged to the Bank and described in Schedule herein below, together with all rights to transfer by way of Lease, assignment or sale for realising the above mentioned amount (Secured Asset), in exercise of the powers conferred on him under Section 13(4)(a) of the said Act read with Rule-8 of the said Rules on this **04th day of January 2024.**

The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the said property and any dealings with the said property will be subject to the charge of M/s. Sreenidhi Souharda Sahakari Bank Niyamitha for a sum of **Rs.21,32,529/- (Rupees Twenty One Lakhs Thirty Two Thousand Five Hundred and Twenty Nine) only of Sri.Venkatesh on 04/01/2024** together with interest and costs thereon.

DESCRIPTION OF THE SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the property bearing No.116, formed under the scheme of "Ashraya Yojane" in the land bearing Sy No.181, E-Khatha No.150200300100600337, Property No.362/116, Kaggalipura, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bengaluru, measuring east to west : 30-0 feet and north to south : 40-0 feet and bounded on the **East By:** Road; **West by:** Property No.115; **North by:** Property No.100 and **South by:** Road.

Date : 04/01/2024
Place : Bengaluru

Sd/- Authorised Officer
Sreenidhi Souharda Sahakari Bank Niyamitha

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ (ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ)
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ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಧಾರವಾಡ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಧಾರವಾಡ
Phone & Fax : 0836-2747944, Email.ID :eepwddha@gmail.com
ಕ್ರಸಂ : ಕಾನಿಇಧಾ/ಪಿಬಿ–2/4059,5054/ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ /2023–24/4870
ದಿನಾಂಕ : 03–01–2024

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ I.F.T – KW – 2, 3 & 4
ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ್ ಟೆಂಡರ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
(ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ)

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ e-Procurement ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಅರ್ಹ ಸಿವಿಲ್ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಿದಂತೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಹಾಗೂ ಇನ್ನುಳಿದ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಖಚಿತಪಡಿಸಿಕೊಂಡು ಟೆಂಡರನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಕಚೇರಿಯ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಯಿಂದ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು. ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ವಿವರಗಳು ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನಂತಿದೆ.

ಲೆಕ್ಕ ಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆ 2023–24 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ 4059–80–051–0–29–386 ಇಲಾಖಾ ಕಟ್ಟಡ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ
1. PWD/2023-24/BD/WORK_INDENT7174

ಲೆಕ್ಕ ಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆ 2023–24 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ 5054–04–337–0–01–154 ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಮತ್ತು ಇತರೆ ರಸ್ತೆಗಳ ಸುಧಾರಣೆ
1. PWD/2023-24/RD/WORK_INDENT6182
2. PWD/2023-24/RD/WORK_INDENT6463

(1) ಆಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆ–ಸಂದೇಹ/ ಪ್ರಿ ಬಿಡ್ ಮೀಟಿಂಗ್ ದಿನಾಂಕ : **17.01.2024** (ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 12:30 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ) (2) ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಪತ್ರಗಳನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ : **19.01.2024** (ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 16:00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ) (3) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ : **20.01.2024** (ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 16:30 ಗಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ) (4) ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ : **22.01.2024** (ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 16:30 ಗಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ)

ಲೆಕ್ಕ ಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆ 2023–24 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ 5054–04–337–0–01–154 ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಮತ್ತು ಇತರೆ ರಸ್ತೆಗಳ ಸುಧಾರಣೆ
1. PWD/2023-24/RD/WORK_INDENT7140
2. PWD/2023-24/RD/WORK_INDENT7139
3. PWD/2023-24/BD/WORK_INDENT7163
4. PWD/2023-24/BD/WORK_INDENT7164

(1) ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಪತ್ರಗಳನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ : **16.01.2024** (ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 16:00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ) (2) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ/ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ : **17.01.2024** (ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 16:30 ಗಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ)

ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಅಂತರ್‌ಜಾಲ ವಿಳಾಸ http://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in ದಲ್ಲಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಲೋಕೊಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಧಾರವಾಡ ವಿಭಾಗ ಕಛೇರಿಯಿಂದ ಕಚೇರಿಯ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. **ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜನೀಯರರು,**
ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಧಾರವಾಡ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಧಾರವಾಡ.
ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಧಾರವಾಡ/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/656/2023–24

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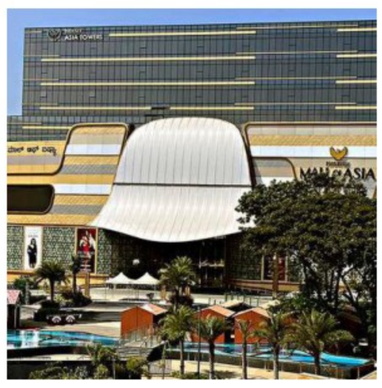
Signboards of business establishments being vandalised by Karnataka Rakshana Vedike activists, and (right) police trying to thwart the activists' attempt, in Bengaluru on December 27, 2023. They were demanding that Kannada be given prominence on signboards. PTI

Signs of Bengaluru's language conundrum

The recent fracas in Karnataka's capital over the language to be used on signboards of commercial establishments is the resurrection of an old linguistic issue that rears its head again and again in a city which has come to be an IT hub over the last few decades. **Shreyas H.S.** looks at the many dimensions of the debate

The importance given to Kannada, or the lack of it, remains one of the most sensitive issues in Bengaluru, the information technology capital of India. The issue spilt over to the city's streets again last week, on December 27. Activists of the Karnataka Rakshana Vedike (KRV) – a Kannada group that was born in the late 1990s, when the city emerged on the global stage – took out a protest march against the display of non-Kannada signboards by commercial establishments. However, it soon degenerated into vandalism of shops and signboards.

At least 50 complaints on specific instances of vandalism were registered with the Bengaluru City Police. While the protest rally was on the International Airport road and targeted the new Phoenix Mall of Asia, incidents of vandalism were reported from across the city. Groups of KRV activists were seen roaming the streets warning shopkeepers, pelting stones, and damaging non-Kannada signboards. Police drew ire for not being able to stop the vandalism.



Karnataka's Congress government, led by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, which has backed the campaign for Kannada signboards, went into a damage-control-mode to save 'Brand Bangalore' and distanced itself from the violence by arresting KRV president T.A. Narayana Gowda. Over 13 cases have been registered, and over 50 KRV activists have been arrested.

> They (the government) should implement the law, not support a protest demanding it. BJP's support is also suspect, as the party failed to implement the law when it was in power.
>
> **ARUN JAVAGAL**
> Organisation Secretary, KRV

Legal hurdles to Kannada signboards

The demand for Kannada signboards in the State, especially in its capital, Bengaluru, came up in the early 2000s when the city emerged as the back office of the first world, leading to the verb "Bangalored" being coined for jobs being shifted here from the West.

The then Chief Minister S.M. Krishna, who was championing the city on the global stage, issued a circular in 2002, asking all municipal corporations to ensure that signboards and streets were renamed in Kannada. This circular did not have any legal teeth.

The issue again came to the forefront in 2008, when the then BJP government led by B.S. Yediyurappa added Rule 24 to the Karnataka Shops and Establishments Act, 1961, which said the top half of a signboard had to be in Kannada and the bottom half in any other language.

However, this was challenged in the High Court of Karnataka by a telecom service provider, Vodafone Essar South, which argued that it had spent crores of rupees on its signboards and changing them had financial implications. The court stayed Rule 24 in 2009 and struck it down in 2014.

The city's civic body, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), issued an order in 2018 which said 60% of all signboards had to be in Kannada. The Retailers Association of India challenged this in the High Court and got a stay order in 2019.

New law, campaign, and now an Ordinance

Following the failure of multiple attempts to mandate Kannada signboards, the Kannada Development Authority (KDA), a statutory body, included this in The Kannada Language Comprehensive Development Act, 2022, which it drafted and was passed by the State Legislature in 2022.

Section 17(6) of the 2022 law says: "The upper half portion of boards displaying the names of commercial, industrial and business undertakings, trusts, counselling centres, hospitals, laboratories, amusement centres and hotels etc., functioning with the approval and sanction of government or local authorities, shall be in Kannada and the lower half can be in any other language".

KRV took up a campaign over the past four months demanding the implementation of this norm. Activists visited shops, malls, and other commercial establishments and appealed to them to change their signboards. When they did not receive a positive response, they took out a protest march on December 27, which turned into vandalism.

Now, the State government has decided to promulgate an Ordinance to amend the 2022 law and bring in more clarity by mandating that 60% of the signboard has to be in Kannada and the rest in any language. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has set a February 28 deadline for commercial establishments to comply with the law.

Anxiety in establishments

The February 28 deadline for the new 60:40 rule has caused much anxiety among commercial establishments. Kumar Rajagopalan, spokesperson, Retailers Association of India, which brought a stay on the 2018 attempt to implement the 60:40 signboards rule, said this rule lacked clarity and would only give a "free pass" to vigilantes and hold businesses to ransom.

"Such vigilantism will only bring disrepute to Bengaluru, which is a global investment destination. Commercial establishments need to cater to consumers, and the only logic that drives them is consumer needs," he said, appealing to the government to drop the idea of promulgating the Ordinance.

While many retailers oppose the mandate, they fear voicing it. "Language is a means of communication, and this rule only disrupts it by being divorced from the ground reality. The name of a shop or an establishment is also a brand name which cannot be translated easily. Bengaluru has always been multilingual and cosmopolitan, and such rules and vandalism only damage that," one of the traders said. Officially, Kannadigas, though they remain the single largest linguistic group in the city, are a minority compared to other linguistic groups put together.

Discontentment is brewing even in Chickpet, dominated by Marwaris, where a signature campaign is reportedly underway to petition the President of India against the new norm. Sajjan Raj Mehta of Chickpet Traders Association said his Association has no qualms with the Ordinance and said anyone who does business here should respect the law of the land. When quizzed on the signature campaign, he said he wasn't aware of it and that if he finds such traders, he will speak to them personally to withdraw the campaign.

Arun Kumar of the Malleshwaram Shop Owners' Association said with the new 60:40 rule, it appears that many commercial establishments, which already have signboards in both Kannada and English, have to change them. "This involves considerable financial burden, and we now plan to petition Chief Minister Siddaramaiah," he said.

The Ordinance and Section 17 (6) of The Kannada Language Comprehensive Development Act, 2022, and the February 28, 2024 deadline for its implementation are likely to be challenged in the High Court of Karnataka.

Politics over language

Presently, the Kannada signboards issue is playing out politically in the backdrop of impending parliamentary polls later this year. In his previous tenure as Chief Minister, Siddaramaiah brought to the fore issues such as the Karnataka State flag and anthem and the removal of Hindi from Namma Metro signboards in a bid to corner the BJP as the "Hindi party".

Sensing a similar plank being developed against them by Siddaramaiah ahead of the Lok Sabha elections later this year, the opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) was quick to turn the tables and demand the immediate release of KRV president T.A. Narayana Gowda. It was also quick to point out that the law under which Kannada signboards have been mandated and are now being implemented was enacted by the BJP regime in 2022.

There is a political consensus over the Kannada language issue, even as Kannada activists complain there has been no political support for the Kannada cause. Kannada has never been a successful political plank in the State.

Arun Javagal, organisation secretary, KRV, said they were perplexed about how the government expressed its support to demands for implementing a law. "They should implement the law, not support a protest demanding it. BJP's support is also suspect, as the party failed to implement the law when it was in power," he said.

Countering arguments that insisting signboards in Kannada were against the cosmopolitan nature of the city, he said access to services in Kannada, be it in banks or on the streets, was a valid consumer right of a Kannadiga that couldn't be denied to them. "Nobody is insisting the signboards be in Kannada alone," he added. Many Kannada activists, including former bureaucrats, have pointed out that insisting on the use of Kannada in signboards did not amount to being parochial and would not affect investment flow to the city, giving the example of European nations.

Dent to Brand Bengaluru

As Hyderabad, another IT hub in South India has turned aggressive in wooing investments, and the competition between the two cities hots up, vandalism on the streets of Bengaluru in the name of language will dent its brand image, it is feared.

"How can the police not stop such violence and vandalism? Why is our Bengaluru Minister quiet? We need confidence-boosting measures from the government," wrote T.V. Mohandas Pai, an industry leader who was formerly associated with tech major Infosys, on social media. Another civic activist, R.K. Mishra, wrote that the vandalism "certainly doesn't reflect Karnataka's tolerant and inclusive culture".

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister and Bengaluru Development Minister D.K. Shivakumar quickly condemned the vandalism. They called for stern action against the miscreants to plug any damage to the city's brand image.

Karnataka Rakshana Vedike State president T.A. Narayana Gowda and activists at the rally in Bengaluru. ANI

Track change

Singer Shruti Pathak on composing for films, her love for performing live, and more

> ***Live performances are where the music breathes. Every place has a different type of audience. And the ones in Bangalore are always amazing. They have a varied taste in music.***
>
> **SHRUTI PATHAK**
> Singer and composer

Taking life in her stride Singer Shruthi Pathak. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Praveen Sudevan
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Remember the time when Hindi films overflowed with music? Four, five, and sometimes even more earworms woven into the narrative? But times have changed. Even big-star vehicles have few songs or sometimes none.

It has become challenging for singers to ply their trade exclusively in films. There seems to be a demand to evolve, to do more than just playback singing. Many singers of this generation try to maximise their talent with live shows, covers, independent albums, compositions, and more. Shruti Pathak belongs to this generation.

Shruti began her career in 2008 when songs were still a significant part of Hindi cinema. You would have heard her voice in *Fashion, Dev D, Anjaana Anjaani, Kai Po Che,* and *Ra.One*. Last year, her 15th in films, was memorable for her as she turned composer for the first time in Tarun Dudeja's *Dhak Dhak*.

The recent shift in film music, with its preference for cinematic realism over song-and-dance spectacle, is not a hurdle for Shruti; it's an open door. "Singers have always been chameleons," she points out, "Adapting to styles, genres, and emotions is in our DNA. The question isn't about versatility, but why films choose fewer songs."

The answer, she believes, lies in the evolution of storytelling itself. Today's narratives, often grounded in gritty realism, do not always call for elaborate dance sequences.

"It's not about singers needing to be more adaptable," she clarifies, "it's about filmmakers choosing different ways to tell their stories."

Her experience as a singer helped her compose the song 'Udd Udd' in *Dhak Dhak*. "Singing, although it comes later in the process, is beneficial because it allows you to anticipate how the song will sound in its final version. Even during the initial stages, like when working with a music producer on the song's production, a singer's perspective is invaluable. The ability to gauge how the song will sound once properly sung, or even during the creation of a scratch track, is enhanced as a singer," she says.

"Yet, whether you're a singer, musician, composer, or lyricist, every aspect of music holds equal importance. A strong foundation in one area naturally complements the others."

Like many artistes, Shruti too, introspected during the forced pause during the COVID-19 lockdowns. She realised her desire to create a song rather than croon created ones. "The opportunity to push my boundaries with *Dhak Dhak* was something I eagerly seized," she says, "The journey was challenging but a tremendous learning experience. It enhanced my decision-making skills and added a new dimension to my creative process."

She explains that the process of composing for a film and her independent tracks are different. "The approach is personal when working on my independent singles or albums. It's about the music reflecting my emotions, thoughts, and feelings at that moment. In contrast, film music involves various other considerations. There are additional criteria, such as the director's vision, the storyline, the specific situation in the film, or the character's arc. It adds a layer of complexity."

Yet, Shruti truly feels the magic of music on stage, like in Bengaluru in December. "Live performances are where the music breathes," she says, "There's an immediate connection with the audience, a pulsating exchange of emotions that leaves you breathless. Every place has a different type of audience. And the ones in Bangalore are always amazing. They have a varied taste in music."

Connecting with her listeners is essential to Shruti. From getting them to sing along to sharing personal anecdotes, she ensures everyone feels part of an experience. These are the moments she lives for.

"It is exceptional because you can witness their immediate response, reactions, and their genuine affection for you. The applause and love received on stage are beyond imagination."

The concert in Bengaluru was a nice way to cap a memorable year for Shruti, in which she turned music director for the first time.

"While I am eager to compose more often, there's also a lot happening on the music front. There are numerous film songs and independent music projects in the pipeline for 2024, some of which I've composed and others where I've contributed as a singer for different composers. I'm looking forward to the year ahead."

STEPOUT

Where dance meets wrestling

Contemporary dancer, Johanna Heusser is set to mesmerise audiences on her Indian tour with *Dr Churz, Dr Schlungg und Dr Böös*. Sponsored by Swiss Arts Council Pro Helvetia, the performance challenges Swiss wrestling's conservative roots, questioning gender roles and societal norms. The event promises an innovative exploration of tradition, culture and societal values. *At Shoonya Center for Art and Somatic Practices on January 5 at 7 pm. For more information and tickets for the event, visit insider.in*

Empowering minds

Quizabled, a quiz competition for disabled students, is set for its ninth edition. Conceptualised by Seva-in-Action and powered by LTIMindtree, the event aims to unearth the unique talents of over 6,000 disabled students across 10 states in India. This year introduces a National Finale featuring students with hearing and visual impairments. A Narayanaswamy, Minister of Social Justice & Empowerment, will be the chief guest.

On January 6, 8 am to 4.30 pm at BMS College of Engineering. Free entry. More details at www.quizabled.com.

Therapy through pottery

Embrace the therapeutic benefits of pottery at Lahe Lahe's workshops. Learn hand-building and pot throwing with Maya, at a pace suitable for all levels. Additionally, engage children in a pottery experience on Saturdays from 5 to 6 pm and Sundays from 10 to 11 am. Particpants can also sign up for acrylic painting, vegan potluck, discussions on Harry Potter and more. *For tickets and details, visit townscript.com or bookmyshow.com or call 9886294444.*

A flashback of ecology

The upcoming Vijay Thiruvady Memorial Lecture will throw light on Lalbagh

Evergreen A glimpse of Lalbagh, one of the most iconic locations in the city. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The impact of the twentieth century on the present and future of India is a subject of ongoing debate, encompassing politics, economics, culture, and society.

However, the far-reaching consequences extend to the environment, influencing the delicate balance between human actions and the non-human entities that share our spaces.

The Bangalore International Centre on January 7 pays homage to the late Vijay Thiruvady, a dedicated environmentalist, through a memorial lecture highlighting his contributions.

Vijay's book, *Lalbagh - Sultans' Garden to Public Park*, serves as a comprehensive historical narrative spanning five centuries, offering a view of the Lalbagh's transformation from a flower garden in 1537 to a public park.

Vijay's passion for nature and horticulture manifested in various initiatives, including Green Heritage Walks and Imperial Colonial Walks. His knowledge, gained from walks and lectures, left an indelible mark on diverse audiences, connecting with both experts and schoolchildren.

The upcoming Vijay Thiruvady Memorial Lecture, featuring Mahesh Rangarajan, Professor of History and Environmental Studies at Ashoka University, will delve into India's twentieth-century environmental history.

Mahesh's extensive background, encompassing academia and leadership roles, positions him as a knowledgeable speaker to revisit crucial environmental milestones. The speech, titled India Ekologika: Revisiting India's 20th-Century Environmental History, promises to be a journey through time, exploring the relationship between human activities and the environment.

On January 7, 11:30am to 1pm at Bangalore International Centre. Entry is free on a first come, first serve basis. For RSVP and more information, visit bangaloreinternationalcentre.org.

Throwback to yesteryears Take a trip down memory lane at SOKA. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Sip on nostalgia

From Mysuru's yellaki bananas to fragrant Jasmine Flowers, SOKA's cocktails resonate with the rich flavours of Karnataka

Priyamedha Dutta
priyamedha.dutta@thehindu.co.in

A whole lot of theatrics unfolded at SOKA, Bengaluru's newest bar. Situated in the heart of the pub-laden neighbourhood of Indiranagar, SOKA stands out with its unique blend of cocktails and culinary delights, all of which infuse local flavours with a contemporary twist.

Push open the door, you will find yourself instantly transported to an unconventional realm. The interiors are a fusion of earthy Art Deco, with diya-laden walls complemented by a monumental centrepiece by Goan artist Siddharth Kerkar.

The 38-seat arrangement is a nod to the intimacy of the space, with furniture reminiscent of old-style European jazz clubs.

From using Mysuru's Yellaki bananas to fragrant Jasmine Flowers, every creation resonates with the rich flavours of Karnataka. The Mofo Don cocktail is a spicy concoction of pickled pineapples, cilantro, jalapeno and red cabbage that imparts a visually stunning red hue to the drink.

"We get this cabbage from a local vendor in Russel Street who we believe is a Don, hence the name," says bartender Avinash Kapoli.

SOKA is the brainchild of chef Sombir Choudhary (SO) and Avinash Kapoli (KA) the custodians behind the popular Jamming Goat cafe. They wanted to create a space through which patrons could time travel to Bengaluru's iconic bars of the past.

Some of the cocktails, hence, are tributes.

Like the Black Cadillac, which features Old Monk, Bacardi rum and clarified coke as an ode to a famous 90's club on M.G. Road.

The rum-based cheese cherry pineapple is a classic take on CCP at Bengaluru's legendary Downtown Pub. The cocktail features a blend of Bacardi Carta Blanca, aged cheddar and cream cheese among other spirits.

SOKA
HITS: Made in Heaven (Cocktail), Crispy Fried Soft Shell Crabs
Misses: Edamame Fenugreek Tart
POCKET PINCH : ₹2800 for two

The undoubted star among SOKA cocktails, 'Made in Heaven' combines aged rum, coconut rum, frozen strawberries, coconut milk, coconut rum and pineapple.

For the food, chef Sombir offers thoughtfully crafted nanoplates that blend the contemporary charm of bar snacks with an Indian flair. The chicken gyoza (Japanese crispy dumplings) are served with malai coconut cream sauce instead of a traditional soy-based sauce.

The chicken yakitori gets an Indian twist with tamarind glaze defying the traditional teriyaki sauce. The crispy fried soft shell crabs are served with crab rassa.

The spicy smoked kulcha paired with an array of pickle options like artichoke, chicken, mutton and prawn is a trip to the northern part of India. The edamame fenugreek tart accompanied by the teekhi and meethi chutneys is a modern take on chaat but fails to hit the spot.

Just when we thought we had tasted everything on the menu, the steaming hot Soka Cup noodles with chilli and schezwan pepper sauce arrives. It feels like a warm hug in Bengaluru winter.

We end the night on a sweet note sampling the Ooty chocolate mousse with raspberry coullis.

Temples closed after entry of Dalit youth at Gollarahatti in Tarikere taluk

Sathish G.T.
GERUMARADI
(CHIKKAMAGALURU DIST.)

The two temples at Gollarahatti that were shut. SATHISH G.T.

The residents of Gollarahatti at Gerumaradi village in Tarikere taluk have closed two temples in their locality following the entry of a Dalit into their habitat. Kambada Ranganatha Swamy and Thimmappa temples will remain closed until the rituals of purification are conducted, according to the residents.

Maruthi, an excavator operator from M.C. Halli, who belongs to a Dalit community, visited Gollarahatti on January 1. He was hired for loading work at a house-demolition site. As the residents learnt about his entry, they closed the gates of the temples. A few residents allegedly assaulted Maruthi for entering the habitat. He filed a complaint against 15 people in this regard on January 2. The Tarikere police have registered a case under the SC-ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act and arrested one person, Shankar. The rest are absconding.

When *The Hindu* visited the place on Thursday, both the temples were shut. A team of police officials led by Tarikere Dy.SP V.S. Halamurthy Rao visited the village for mahazar proceedings. As the police vehicle reached, men and women were seen hurriedly going inside their houses and shutting the doors.

Around 130 families belonging to Golla community reside at Gollarahatti, part of Geramaradi village, about 5 km from Tarikere town. Besides them, Lingayats and Bhovi families reside in the village.

For years, the Golla people claim that they do not let people from Dalit communities into Gollarahatti. "This is followed in all Gollarahattis. People in the neighbouring village know about this. They do not enter our habitat," said a woman who wished not to be named. As part of the custom, all families join the rituals and take the deity to Kallathagiri, about 23 km from Tarikere, for Ganga puja for "purification." Only after this will regular puja resume.

"We are not planning the ceremony in the near future as many people keep visiting the locality. Now anyone can walk in. Once all the developments regarding the complaint are over, we will conduct the rituals," said one of the residents.

The residents claim that no one assaulted Maruthi for entering the habitat. "He might not know the custom being followed in the habitat. One person argued with him because he cut the TV cable while taking the excavator on the street. Only later did we learn that he belonged to Madiga community. As per the practice that we have been following for years, we closed the temples until the purification is done," said a local.

"There have been occasions when people entered the locality with no knowledge of the custom and ended up paying the cost incurred for the purification. If they refuse to pay, we contribute and bear the expense," another resident said.

When a Minister was denied entry

A. Narayanaswamy, Union Minister, was denied entry into Gollarahatti at Pemmanahalli in Pavagada taluk in September 2019, because he is a Dalit.

The conduct of the villagers attracted criticism, and a week later, the residents gave him a grand welcome.

Karnataka sets up PCPNDT task force

THE HINDU IMPACT

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State government on Thursday constituted a task force for PCPNDT Act implementation under the chairmanship of Health and Family Welfare Commissioner. *The Hindu* had highlighted the delay in setting up the task force in its edition dated January 2.

Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao had on December 12 announced on the floor of the Legislative Council during the Belagavi session that the government will set up task forces at the State and district levels within a week to curb female foeticide. However, it was delayed following surge in COVID-19 cases and shift of focus.

The task force comprises State Mission Director, National Health Mission; State Health Director; RCH Programme Officer; Deputy Director (Family Welfare); and Deputy Director (Medical Acts).

However, although the Minister said that the task force will have an officer of the cadre of Deputy SP or Assistant Commissioner of Police for better enforcement, none from the Police Department has been included. Health Commissioner Randeep D. said: "A decision to involve the Police Department will be taken after more discussion on the Tamil Nadu model."

The task force is empowered to regularly monitor and oversee the functioning of State Appropriate Authority, State Inspection and Monitoring Committee, and State Advisory Body as well as the district level committees. While it has to conduct review meetings once in three months, it is also supposed to monitor all medical termination of pregnancies during the second trimester in the State. The task force also has the responsibility of recommending any amendments to the PCPNDT (Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques) Act, as and when required.

The Bengaluru police last month unearthed a prenatal sex determination racket across Bengaluru, Mandya, and Mysuru districts. They arrested a doctor and his lab technician, who allegedly performed around 900 illegal abortions in three years.

With registrations low, govt. to start awareness campaign ahead of Yuva Nidhi launch

Only 32,184 candidates have registered for the scheme since the launch of the process in Dec. 2023

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

As the State government readies to launch Yuva Nidhi, financial assistance scheme for unemployed graduate and diploma holders, on January 12 at Shivamogga, efforts are on to register more eligible candidates under the scheme.

Yuva Nidhi is the fifth and final guarantee, promised by the Congress ahead of the Assembly elections, being implemented now.

As per government records, about 4.30 lakh graduates and diploma holders, who passed out in the 2022-2023 academic year, are eligible to apply. As many as 32,184 candidates have registered for the scheme since the launch of registration process on December 27, 2023.

While Belagavi has reported the highest registration among districts with 3,890, Kodagu district with 120 has the least.

While the government estimates to spend about ₹250 crore this year, the scheme could cost ₹1,250 crore next year and ₹2,500 crore the year after. Graduates and diploma holders will get ₹3,000 and ₹1,500 per month, respectively, for two years.

At a videoconference with the Deputy Commissioners and chief executive officers of zilla panchayats on Thursday, Minister for Skill Development and Livelihood Sharan Prakash Patil sought the reason for some districts falling behind in the registration and asked officials to intensify the registration process. He also asked officials to hold meetings with the heads of educational institutions and principals of degree, engineering, medical colleges, and polytechnics to increase the registration. Among others, Ministers M.C. Sudhakar, Madhu Bangarappa, and Priyanka Kharge were present in the meeting.

Minister for Medical Education and Skill Development Sharan Prakash Patil attending a videoconference in Bengaluru on Thursday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

As per government records, about 4.30 lakh graduates and diploma holders are eligible to apply

While directions were given to give publicity to the scheme using social media platforms to reach out to more candidates, they were also asked to utilise services of urban and rural local bodies in popularising the scheme. Besides, officials were asked to deploy publicity materials in front of colleges and gram panchayats.

The Minister also asked the officials to take steps to prevent registration on fake certificates and documents, and directed them to take strict action against those indulging in fraudulent practices.

Kar sevak arrest: No question of taking action against police personnel, says Minister

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The slugfest between the Congress and the BJP over the arrest of kar sevak Shrikanth Pujari, who is also involved in several other cases, in Hubballi, continued on Thursday even as Home Minister G. Parameshwara ruled out action against the police personnel involved in the arrest.

"The police have taken whatever action had to be taken. They have not worked against the law. The BJP is creating an issue for political reasons. Let them do what they want, we will do our duty," Dr. Parameshwara told presspersons here on Thursday. He asked for what reason the police official should be suspended. "He has done his job."

When asked if the government had asked him to go on compulsory leave, he said: "He had sought leave for two days earlier. He will return to duty. It is not good for the BJP to politicise the matter."

However, claiming Shrikanth Pujari as innocent, Leader of the Opposition R. Ashok said that the government had "targeted" him as the police could not find the accused in other cases. "There are 50,000 to 60,000 cases pending in the State for a long time, including about 10,000 cases in Bengaluru. If all are arrested, there will be no space in jail," he said.

'Godhra-like incident'

Dr. Parameshwara said that the State government has no information about the likelihood of a "Godhra-type incident" in the State as stated by Congress leader B.K. Hariprasad.

"If such information comes in, the Police Department is capable of handling it. We will not allow such incidents to happen here,"he told presspersons here.

Mr. Hariprasad had stirred a controversy by stating that there could be "Godhra-like incident" in Karnataka ahead of the inauguration of Sri Rama temple at Ayodhya. He had urged the government to provide security to people travelling to Ayodhya.

Babadudangiri case: Siddaramaiah clarifies on BJP's allegations

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Refuting allegations that the case pertaining to the destruction of a grave around Bababudangiri shrine was being reopened, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Thursday clarified that the allegation was "misrepresented and a lie" being fermented by the BJP.

"Summons have been issued by the court to the accused as part of the normal process of law in the case registered in 2017. On March 19, 2020, permission was sought from the government for inquiry. Based on this, the government gave permission on September 7, 2023," the CM said in a statement.

He said the chargesheet was filed before the court on October 24, and summons had been issued as part of the due process of law. The summons to the accused to appear before the court on January 8 has been issued by the court, he said.

Nanjangud bandh call gets good response

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

The Nanjangud bandh called by Sri Srikanteshwara Bhakta Mandali and other groups on Thursday, evoked good response despite the district administration denying permission for it. The bandh was called to protest alleged disruptions caused by a few individuals to the traditional rituals associated with Andhakasura Vadhe.

Character certificate from police must for school vehicle drivers, helpers

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Department of School Education and Literacy (DSEL) has made it mandatory for those school vehicle drivers and van helpers to produce character certificate from police stations coming under their jurisdiction. Drivers and helpers must renew the certificate every two years.

The DSEL has issued a circular to all school managements and said that the certificates should be uploaded in the Student Achievement Tracking System portal of the schools.

According to the Karnataka Motor Vehicle Act, 1989, and Condition for Vehicles Engaged in Transport of School Children Rules, 2012, constituting School Cab Safety Committee is compulsory in all the schools.

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e-TENDER No: TIDEL/2023-24/10

E- TENDER FOR OPERATION & MAINTENANCE SERVICES OF HT & LT ELECTRICAL INSTALLATIONS, DG SETS, ACMV SYSTEM AND ALL RELATED, CONNECTED WORKS (NON–COMPREHENSIVE)

TIDEL Park Ltd invites e-tender for Operation & Maintenance of HT &LT Electrical Installations, DG sets, Air Conditioning & Mechanical Ventilation System and all related connected Works (Non-Comprehensive) of its IT Park at Taramani, Chennai. For more details and participation in the above e-tender, please visit the website **https:/www.tntenders.gov.in/**. Last date for online submission of duly filled in tender documents is 3.00 P.M on 07/02/2024. TIDEL reserves the right to accept /reject any one/all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.

DIPR/60/TENDER/2024 — MANAGING DIRECTOR

PUBLIC NOTICE

Under the instruction, authority and information given by my Client I hereby issue this notice on the general public as under:

My Client is intending to purchase the Scheduled Property from its owners 1) Mr. K. M. Oommen and 2) Mr. P. K. Mammen, both are resident of # B-804, Skyline R. K. Atlantis, Old Madras Road, Pai Layout, Benniganahalli, Dooravani Nagar, Bangalore–560001.

SCHEDULE OF THE PROPERTIES

1) **ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF THE AGRICULTURAL LAND bearing Survey No. 6** situated within the jurisdiction of Sub – Registrar office of Doddaballapur Taluk, Toobagere Hobli, Srinivaspura Village, Doddaballapur Taluk, Bangalore Rural District, admeasuring 01 Acre 01 Gunthas and bounded on: To the East: Land Belonging to Kariyamma; To the West: Land belonging to Kariyamma; To the North: Land belonging to Kariyamma; To the South: Land belonging to R. Lakshmamma

2) **ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF THE AGRICULTURAL LAND bearing Survey No. 7/9 (Old Survey No. 7/6)** situated within the jurisdiction of Sub – Registrar office of Doddaballapur Taluk, Toobagere Hobli, Srinivaspura Village, Doddaballapur Taluk, Bangalore Rural District, admeasuring 00 Acre 28Gunthas and Bounded on: To the East: Land belonging to Kariyamma; To the West: Road; To the North: Land belonging to Rangaswamy; To the South: Land belonging to R. Lakshmamma

That Public at large is hereby notified that any person asserting any right, title, interest or claim over the Scheduled Properties or objecting to such sale in favour of my Client, shall within 10 days from the date of this notice, shall send a written communication to the address mentioned below with all the documentary proof for basing their claim / assertion. In the event if no claims are received within such period, my Client shall proceed with the final sale deed and any claims / objections received subsequent to the completion of sale transaction shall not be binding upon my Client.

Place: Dharwad
Dt: 04/01/2023

AJAY KULKARNI, ADVOCATE, B – 404, RT Enclave, 2nd Main, Narayanpur, DHARWAD– 580008 **Mob: 7259149654**

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
e-mail:- serw_ctc@yahoo.com
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, CUTTACK

No:-Tender Online RWC -01/24, Letter No.:- 21 Date : 02.01.2024

e - Procurement NOTICE

1. Name of the Work : Construction Buildings / Bridges / Road works.
2. Class of Contractor
c) Estimated cost more than Rs.6.00 Crore & upto Rs.50.00 Crore : Special Class (of Odisha PWD) & relevant class of other licensing authorities.
d) Estimated cost more than Rs.1.00 Crore & upto Rs.20.00 Crore : A Class (of Odisha PWD) & relevant class of other licensing authorities.
c) Estimated cost more than Rs.20.00 Lakh & upto Rs.3.00 Crore : B Class (of Odisha PWD) & relevant class of other licensing authorities.
3. Time for Completion : As specified in the Column-8 of the Annexure
4. Detail Projects : As per Annexure attached
5. Other Details :

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding From	To	Last Date & Time of seeking tender clarification	Date & Time of opening of tender Technical Bid	Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Cuttack.	Tender Online RWC - 01/24	11.01.2024 at 11.30 A.M.	25.01.2024 to 05.00 P.M	25.01.2024 up to 02.00 P.M	29.01.2024 at 11.30 A.M	Will be intimated later

Further details can be seen from the website **www.tendersodisha.gov.in** .

Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Cuttack.

O-2094: OIPR-25097/11/0040/2324

PUBLIC (ELECTIONS-II) DEPARTMENT
SECRETARIAT, CHENNAI-600 009.

Tender No.2 /Ele-II/2024

TENDER NOTIFICATION

e-Tenders are invited from reputed Companies / Agencies for fixing of GPS with Vehicle Tracking System in FST/SST/VST vehicles, EVMs/ VVPATs transportation vehicles and Zonal Party Vehicles on rental basis for the General Elections to Lok Sabha, 2024 for a period of one year as per the guidelines/ instructions of the Election Commission of India. The details can be seen in the tender document which can be downloaded free of cost from the websites **https://tntenders.gov.in** and **https://elections.tn.gov.in**

1. Queries from the Companies/Agencies should be raised in the website **https://tntenders.gov.in** up to 05:00 P.M. on 22.01.2024. The reply to the queries of the Companies/Agencies shall be uploaded by this Department by 05:00 P.M on 24.01.2024 in the website **https://tntenders.gov.in**.
2. The last date for submission of tenders through **https://tntenders.gov.in**– up to 3.00 P.M. on 02.02.2024.
3. Technical Bids Opening to ascertain the Number of bids received – 4:00 P.M. on 02.02.2024.
4. Detailed Technical Evaluation by the Tender Evaluation Committee – will be decided later
5. Financial Bid Opening - Those bidders who have Technically qualified will be informed.
6. Earnest Money Deposit (EMD):- Rs.5,00,000/- by online module. For contact: 044 – 25665327

DIPR/54/Tender/2024

Additional Chief Electoral Officer & Additional Secretary to Government.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is brought to the notice of the general public that my client **Dr.Uma Chandran**, Residing at 197,2nd Cross,4thMain,Vivekanagar,Bangalore-560047 is negotiating to purchase the schedule mentioned property from the joint owners (1) Mr.Sushil Mathew Joseph (2) Mrs.Sylvia Mason (3) Mr.Suresh Anthony Joseph(4) Mr.Stanislaus Mario Joseph (5) Mr.Selwyn John Joseph..

Any person having objection in the said sale transaction between my client Dr.Uma Chandran and the sellers above named may file their objection before the undersigned advocate within ten days from the date of this notice failing which the transaction shall be completed.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the site along with residential building bearing No.600, situated at 2nd Cross, 3rd Block, Koramangala Bangalore-560034. Measuring:East to West 50 feet and North to South 74 feet 6 inches.Residential building consisting of ground floor and first floor, built up area measuring 3300 Sq. feet. BBMP. PID.NO.68 -2- 600. Bounded on: **East by :** site no.601, **West by:** Site no.599, **North by:** Road, **South by :** Site no.587.

J. RAVINDRAN Advocate
No.310, 4th Cross, 6th Main, Viveknagar, Bangalore-569947. Mobile :9900609429

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

H VENKITESWARAN (Rajan) 1930–2024 Formerly Tata Steel, ISRM, BHoruka Steel and SISCOL left us on 3rd Jan 2024 from Grieving family. Ph: 9845005047

RESPECTFUL HOMAGE

DOB : 01.03.1939 DOD: 03.01.2024

S.RAMANUJAM
(Former Engineer, National Highways)
Attained Acharyan Thiruvadi on 3.1.2024
Funeral will be on 5.1.2024 between 2.30 to 3.30 p.m.
At Besant Nagar crematorium.
Deeply Mourned by Wife, Sons, Daughter and family
Contact :
9840357579 / 7305737778

‘Activism and writing have helped me become a better human being’

Saraswathi spoke about her journey as a writer, translator and activist, and said that all she dreams of now is equality for everyone in the society

INTERVIEW

Du. Saraswathi

Yemen S.
BENGALURU

Du. Saraswathi sees herself as a writer and an activist in equal measures and perceives no dichotomy between the two. A human rights and Dalit activist and a vocal feminist, she is also a writer, poet, playwright and actor. Her Ph.D. work is on the pourakarmikas of Bengaluru who toil to keep cities clean but never get recognition as entitled citizens. In fact some of Saraswati’s best stories reflect the lives of these underpaid and unrecognised workers of the city.

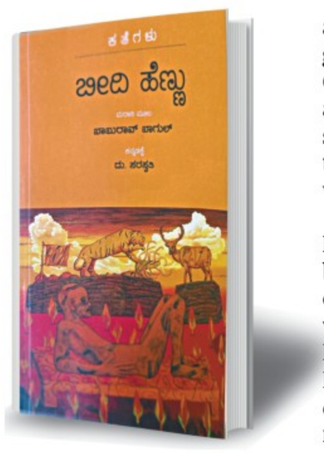
Saraswathi’s recent work *Beedi Hennu* is a translation of Marathi author Baburao Bagul’s groundbreaking work, *Jevha Mi Jaat Chorli Hoti*, gives voice to marginalised sections. Bagul’s collection of short stories, first published in 1963, revolutionized not just Dalit literature but left an indelible mark on Marathi and Indian literature. It brought forth an unfiltered, raw reality over the harsh truths of societal structures. The Kannada translation was launched recently in Bengaluru.

In an interview with *The Hindu* Saraswathi spoke about her journey as a writer, translator and activist and said that all she dreams of now is happiness and equality for everyone in society.

BBMP pourakarmikas, waiting to go home after their daily work, at Chamarajapet. K. MURALI KUMAR

Du. Saraswathi BHAGYA PRAKASH K.

Your recent book *Beedi Hennu* is a translation of Baburao Bagul. You have translated many books in the past, how was your experience translating this particular book?
Translation is something that is indispensable in my life. From judgements, reports, scripts, poems, to books, almost every content comes out in English, and I am forced to translate. My intention is to make sure all of this reaches people of all walks of life, which is why I translate it to Kannada. I can not say that translating this book was a pleasant or good experience; It shocks you, pains you, and pierces you. So, it was quite an intense process for me translating this book, I underwent the same pain Buburao had undergone as a Dalit writer.



The title of the book in Marathi (*Jevha Mi Jaat Chorli Hoti*) and English (*When I Hid My Caste*) are very different from the Kannada title. Why the title *Beedi Hennu*?
The title of the book was chosen by the publisher. I had many other titles in mind for the book, however, each story in the book is so strong and hard hitting that it gets difficult to find a title, which is why I let the publisher take a call. I am also very fond of the English title - When I Hid My Caste. It may sound dry and not very poetic, but it speaks about an aspect of the Dalit life and it is still very relevant.

How different is this book from books of other prominent Dalit writers?
Baburao Bagul is one of the Dalit authors who also comes from a political movement. He is someone who has witnessed India both pre- and post-Independence, and the changes in the caste system during this period. I had read a review of a story written by Baburao and started looking for it. In the process I came across this book. Though I did not find the story, this book got me hooked. His feminist perspective and Dalit aesthetics is what makes him very different from other writers.

There are references to Bhangis/Pourakarmikas in this book. You have worked very closely with Pourakarmikas, especially women in the field. What has that experience been like?
Just like in the story in the book, I have come across some terrible experiences they go through. I was asked to lead a group for Pourakarmikas by the government and witnessed some things which I had never imagined I would do. I have been working with Pourakarmikas for a very long time now and still feel I have not done enough for them.

What is it like to be both a creative writer and an activist? How do these two elements blend, do they ever interfere with one another?
Both are reciprocal and influence one another. Activism adds weight to my creativity, and my creative side helps me balance my activism. These two elements are mutual and blend so very well. Activism and writing have helped me grow as a person and helped me become a better human being.

You have been an activist, a writer, poet, theatreperson and a lot more for more than three decades. What would you like to reflect upon when you look at your journey?
Activism, theatre, poetry, writing... all of this is a part of my life, and I can not separate these elements. However, I had never imagined that I would become an activist or an author or a poet, it just naturally became a part of me. Whatever I am today, the credit goes to the movements I have been a part of. Despite being able to work in so many fields, the fact that I am a Dalit remains as a tag. People assume I work as a Pourakarmika myself, but I am not ashamed, and I am proud to be associated with the community.

‘City emerges as a frontrunner in overall office leasing’

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bengaluru emerged as a frontrunner in overall office leasing in the country and recorded 15.3 million sq. ft absorption in calendar year 2023, reports CBRE South Asia, a real estate consulting firm.

The city accounted for a 25% share in pan-India office leasing across the top 9 cities, as per a report released by CBRE on Thursday.

In the October-December quarter, the City recorded the highest space absorption of 4.7 mn. sq. ft. across the top 9 cities while supply stood at 3.9 mn. sq. ft. Key sectors that drove absorption included engineering & manufacturing (26%), technology (24%), and flexible space operators (18%), the firm said.

Ram Chandnani, Managing Director, Advisory & Transactions Services, CBRE India, said, the office sector is likely to witness expansion by domestic firms from sectors such as banking, financial services, and insurance (BFSI) and engineering and manufacturing, while also seeing growth from other sectors such as life sciences and flexible space operators.

”While the demand in the office sector in 2024 is expected to be led by Bangalore, followed by Delhi-NCR and Hyderabad, Chennai and Pune are also being increasingly preferred by occupiers on account of quality supply addition, presence of skilled talent, robust infrastructure, and competitive costs,‘ he added.

Some of the key office space transactions took place in the city in the last quarter of CY23 included: Philips, leased 660,000 sq. ft. in Embassy Business Hub - I; Tekion, leased 240,000 sq. ft. in Bagmane Solarium City - Helium (North Tower) and Samsung, leased 218,000 sq. ft. in Bagmane Capital - Angkor (West Block).

According to the report, Bangalore office space take-up was driven by small-sized (less than 50,000 sq. ft.) deals during last quarter while non-SEZ (special economic zone) spaces led overall supply and absorption with a share of 88% and 94% respectively.

On a pan-India basis, the office sector in India witnessed a gross absorption of 61.6 mn. sq. ft. during 2023 across 9 cities, registering a growth of 7% (Y-o-Y), marking a 4-year high leasing activity after it touched the peak in 2019 with 65 mn. sq. ft, as per the CBRE survey

EKA Mobility and GreenCell Mobility sign agreement

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

EKA Mobility, a leading electric vehicles and technology company, and GreenCell Mobility, a leading player in the electric mass mobility space, announced the signing of an MoU. Under this collaboration, EKA Mobility will supply GreenCell Mobility with 1,000 inter-city electric buses in 12-metre and 13.5-metre categories, in the next few years.

The two companies are committed to working together to drive positive change in the automobile sector, said a press release.

Thermo Fisher Scientific and C-CAMP announce collaborative initiative

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Thermo Fisher Scientific and the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Platforms (C-CAMP) recently announced a collaborative initiative to establish a Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru. This state-of-the-art facility will serve as a hub for fostering innovation, accelerating breakthroughs in the biotechnology sector and enabling researchers to enhance their expertise and achieve their entrepreneurial ambitions.

As a part of this strategic partnership, C-CAMP will provide the necessary infrastructure on their premises to set up the Centre of Excellence. Thermo Fisher will equip the facility with advanced, workflow-based solutions in flow cytometry and molecular biology and extend its expertise to offer research and training opportunities to scientists from start-ups under the C-CAMP umbrella, academia, and biopharma and biotech institutes.

Amit Chopra, managing director, India and South Asia, Thermo Fisher Scientific said, “India’s bio-economy has consistently witnessed robust double-digit growth over the past decade, projected to reach $300 billion by 2030. The government has been actively fostering an enabling ecosystem to advance biotechnology research, manufacturing and capacity expansion across the country. Additionally, there is a strong emphasis on promoting collaborations between public and private entities and establishing a robust network of bio-incubators and start-ups.”

He further added, “With our industry-leading presence and depth and scale of capabilities, we are committed to supporting the government’s efforts and elevating India’s global standing in the biotechnology domain. Our partnership with C-CAMP reinforces this commitment and is aimed at driving technological advancements.”

As a Department of Biotechnology-supported initiative, C-CAMP is positioned as one of India’s premier sciences and technology start-up hubs, engaged in facilitating bioscience research and entrepreneurship. So far it has supported more than 400 start-ups, many of whom are pursuing exceptionally innovative research.

Karnataka’s National Federation of the Blind celebrates World Braille Day

Speakers underscore the need to integrate visually impaired individuals fully into society

Surabhi Gorebal
Rishabh Sachdeva
BENGALURU

The National Federation of the Blind (NFB), Karnataka, marked World Braille Day with an event at Kondajji Basappa Auditorium in Bangalore, honouring Louis Braille, the inventor of the crucial reading and writing system for the blind.

The focus of this annual celebration, which sought to raise awareness about the challenges faced by the visually impaired, was empowerment through inclusion and diversity. Speakers at the event also underscored the need to integrate visually impaired individuals fully into society.

Sri. Ajay Arora, a visually impaired IAS officer and Additional Secretary of the Department of Social Welfare, Government of Punjab, presided over the proceedings, which were attended by several distinguished guests, including popular Kannada cinema actor Dr. Srinath among them.

A photograph from the event. SREELAKSHMI

The ceremony featured awards and felicitations, recognising outstanding visually impaired individuals

Excellency award
The ceremony featured awards and felicitations, recognising outstanding visually impaired individuals. These included the NFB Excellency Award, which honoured three community icons, and the NFB Prathibha Award 2023, which recognised four students for exceptional performance in public exams. Shreyas Reddy, an advocate at the Karnataka High Court, who won one of the NFB Excellency Awards, said, “I believe there’s insufficient support for the visually impaired to achieve independence. We need to access all public spaces effectively, and without proper accessibility, our fundamental right to life is impeded,” he said, adding that gaining access to schools proved to be a challenge even for him, at first. “My parents supported me by reading everything. Fortunately, evolving technology has made things more accessible over the years, which is truly remarkable.”

He also pointed out that while there has been progress for the visually impaired, its pimarily driven by NGOs. “The government still has a considerable distance to cover. No one should be treated out of sympathy; every individual deserves to be treated with love and empathy, free from discrimination,” said Mr. Reddy.

Braille in daily life
Varsha Umapathi, the captain of the Indian Women’s blind cricket team, who had also won an award, spoke about how Braille has helped her journey through life. According to her, Braille needs to be implemented in almost all sectors of our daily life, whether it be a lift or at a restaurant. “The government has implemented Braille here and there. But I had request more of it to be brought in. This way people like us with low vision can also lead a normal life,” she said.

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO JANUARY 5, 1974

Purchase of Rations: Restrictions Removed

Bangalore, Jan. 4: The Karnataka Government announced that there would be no restriction for purchasing rations by card holders in the Bangalore Informal rationing area and they could buy their rations at their convenience.

The State Government’s earlier decision to give each rationed article in one instalment every month had created a controversy. There had been opposition to that system on the grounds that poor people would be put to inconvenience as they might not have money to buy in one instalment. Later, the Government came out with a statement that the rationed articles could be purchased twice a month.

Minister Rules Out New Varsities in State

Bangalore, Jan. 4: Mr. M. Mallikarjunaswami, Education Minister, today ruled out the possibility of starting new universities for general education in the State.

The Minister told newsmen here that “Our aim will be to make the existing universities function effectively.” He also pointed out that the establishment of new universities meant big financial outlay which the State Government could not afford at present. It may be recalled that the State Government had constituted a Committee of Vice Chancellors to go into the question of establishing a few more universities in the State. What prompted the Government to think of starting new universities was the growing number of colleges under the three existing universities.

Karnataka InFocus

THE HINDU

NUGGETS OF HISTORY

Tejaswi's simple wedding as example

Noted writer Poornachandra Tejaswi married R. Rajeshwari at his farm, Chitrakoota, in Chikkamagaluru district, on November 27, 1966. The ceremony, designed as per the wishes of the poet Kuvempu, Tejaswi's father, was simple, with a few friends and relatives bearing witness. This system later became popular as Mantra Mangalya.

Raitha sangha propagates idea

Though Kuvempu proposed Mantra Mangalya, it was popularized by the activists of Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha later. Many, including the founders of the farmers' organization, followed this custom. N.D. Sundaresh, Kadidal Shamanna and others married in similar way. Many of them ensured their children would get married in the same way.

How ceremony evolved over time

Kuvempu brought out a book called Mantra Mangalya that contained a few excerpts from the Vedas and Upanishads, meant to be read out during the wedding ceremony. Gradually, it saw many changes. Tejaswi, M.D. Nanjundaswamy of Raitha Sangha, and others contributed towards framing a code for the marriage — Vivaha Samhite.

Formation of Kuvempu trust

Karnataka Government set up Rashtrakavi Kuvempu Pratishthana in 1992, when S.Bangarappa, also from Shivamogga district, was the Chief Minister. The trust set up at Kuppali, Kuvempu's village in Thirthahalli taluk, has become a place for many such simple marriages. Hundreds of people got married at Kuvempu's memorial.

Changes to suit local conditions

Not only in Kuppali, but across the State, many couples get married following Mantra Mangalya. Over the years, the custom has been modified to suit local conditions without compromising the core ideals. In recent years, the Mantra Manglya text has been translated into English to suit marriages that involve a bride or groom from a foreign land.

Mantra Mangalya: Simple marriage designed by poet Kuvempu more relevant than ever

Many people who had simple marriages also took an oath not to attend any conventional marriages that incur huge expenses. They have been following it strictly

Sathish G. T.
SHIVAMOGGA

Nitin Kaidotlu and Sowmya K.M. of Shivamogga got married following Mantra Mangalya format at Kuppali. Nempe Devaraj, a journalist, administered the oath. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Kadidal Manjappa was the Chief Minister of Karnataka for a brief period in 1956. All through his political career, he must have faced several protests, but the one he faced in his native village ahead of the marriage of his two nieces was unique.

Among those who exhibited black flags and raised slogans against him were Poornachandra Tejaswi, a noted writer himself and son of Kannada's acclaimed poet Kuvempu, N.D. Sundaresh and Kadidal Shamanna, both of whom are founders of raitha sangha. And the issue of protest was simple marriage. Manjappa had planned the marriage of his two nieces as per the conventional customs that involved rituals conducted under the guidance of a Brahmin priest. The members of the Samajavadi Yuvajana Sabha (to which the three belonged) were against grand ceremonies involving large gatherings and rituals.

The former Chief Minister, even after holding one simple marriage in the family earlier, had gone back to the conventional system, probably to meet the expectations of the grooms' families. Hence, he had to face the protest in front of his house by the youths, a majority of whom were his relatives. In this case, the two brides were in favour of a simple marriage but hesitant to express their wish before the elders of the family. That warranted the intervention of the young socialists.

Kuvempu's letter

The driving force behind this idea was Kuvempu, also a native of Thirtahahlli. He started this mode of unostentatious marriage ceremony -- which later became popular as Mantra Mangalya -- in his own family before preaching it to others. It was on November 27, 1966, when his son Poornachandra Tejaswi married R. Rajeshwari at Chitrakoota, a farm house in Chikkamagaluru district. In the handwritten letter that Kuvempu sent to his friends and relatives then, the poet informs about the simple ceremony and suggests they visit Chitrakoota any day of their convenience and bless the newlywed. His objective was to ensure the ceremony remained simple, with the gathering not exceeding 200 people. For the occasion, Kuvempu wrote a text that serves as a wedding oath. The text, later called Mantra Mangalya, is read by someone in the form of an oath to the bride and groom. After Tejaswi's marriage, many of his friends followed the example. Kadidal Shamanna, N.D. Sundaresh, and many others succeeded in convincing their family members and had Mantra Mangalya.

Shamanna in his autobiography *Kaada Thoreya Jaadu*, narrated by Akshatha K., shares the experience in detail. He and his friend Sridevi had decided to marry the Manthra Mangalya way. The ceremony was scheduled in Shivamoggga on March 2, 1970. Prof.K. Prabhushankar, who also played a role in popularising Mantra Mangalya, was invited to administer the oath. As per the conditions of the ceremony, the gathering should not exceed 200.

Simple marriage

Unaware of the conditions, Shamanna's mother, Nagavenamma invited all the villagers for dinner as part of the reception after the marriage ceremony. As soon as Shamanna learnt about his mother's invitation to the villagers, he went to each family to tell them that there would not be any dinner as it was a simple marriage and they needed not take the trouble to visit his house on the day. This left his mother deeply unhappy. She could not digest the fact that she was not allowed to offer dinner to friends and relatives in the village on the occasion of her son's marriage. But Shamanna, who is considered the "unofficial ambassador of Mantra Mangalya," was not ready to dilute the essence of Mantra Mangalya.

Even before his marriage, he and N.D. Sundaresh would travel long distances to administer Mantra Mangalya. Bidarahalli Srinivas, a lecturer in a Shivamogga college, had invited both for his marriage to be held in a village near Dudda in Hassan taluk. He had difficulty convincing his family members of the Mantra Mangalya. He had insisted that both reach the wedding place early since he was worried that if they delayed, the bride's family might conduct the rituals in the traditional way under the guidance of a Brahmin priest.

Playwright Girish Karnad administering the oath as per Mantra Mangalya to a couple. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Sundaresh and Shamanna travelled to Dudda by bike from Shivamogga, but the bike developed a snag before they could reach. With no alternative way to reach the place, both sprinted for five to six kilometres. Fortunately, they were in time to administer the oath as per Mantra Mangalya. Shamanna has administered oaths to hundreds of young couples in the last 50 years. Irrespective of his old age and health conditions, he takes the trouble to travel and ensure people follow Mantra Mangalya. Another person who popularised the simple marriage is Prof. K. Ramadas, who worked at Maharaja's College in Mysuru. Under the banner of Manava Mantapa in Mysuru, hundreds of couples got married reading the Mantra Mangalya text. Many of them were inter-caste and inter-religious marriages.

In Hassan, journalists R.P. Venkateshmurthy, Manjunath Datta, and Prof. Ravivarma Kumar, who became Advocate General of Karnataka, got married on May 12, 1983, following Mantra Mangalya. Interestingly, defying all the beliefs on auspicious times and days, they had chosen an amavasya (new moon day) and a rahu kala, considered inauspicious for any event, to get married.

Vivaha Samhite

By 1976, Kuvempu had framed Vivaha Samhite (a marriage code) to be read out at the marriage ceremony. Among other things, it states that the couple would not follow any religious heads and would treat both men and women equally. Kuvempu had discussed with M.D. Nanjundaswamy, Tejaswi and others before finalising the code. Kadidal Dayanand and Sheela of Thirthahalli were the first couple to marry after the Vivaha Samihta was drafted.

Many people who had simple marriages also took an oath not to attend any conventional marriages that incur huge expenses. They have been following it strictly. They avoid attending the marriages of their close relatives if the event is not in tune with Mantra Mangalya. Kadidal Shamanna and his younger brother, Kadidal Dayanad, did not attend the marriage of one of their own brothers, Kadidal Gopal, because it was not a simple marriage. "Even today, we follow this principle. We have not attended the marriages of close relatives. We all ensure that our children also accept Mantra Mangalya," said Dayanand, a progressive farmer in Thirthahalli. There are many families where this system has continued for second generations. Tejaswi's children followed the same custom. Similarly, Kadidal Shamanna's children got married in the same system. In recent times, many youngsters are showing interest in Mantra Mangalya. Some of them wish to have the ceremony at Kuppali, the native village of Kuvempu. Rashtrakavi Kuvempu Prathisthana, the trust at Kuppali, has built a memorial for the poet. Marriages take place at the venue. The trust has decided to build an auditorium in Bengaluru soon. "The auditorium could be used for Mantra Mangalya ceremonies, besides literary and theatre events," said B.L. Shankar, president of the trust.

Mantra Mangalya in English

Such marriages have been occasions to spread awareness about simple marriages as well. Avinash S.R., son of M. Raju and Manjula Raju of Shivamogga, and Dr. Alaka B.G., daughter of Dr. B. Ganapathi and D.S. Pushpavathi of Thirthahalli, got married at Kuppali on May 21, 2023. On the occasion, they brought out a book titled Mantra Mangalya. The book serves as a guide for those willing to have a simple marriage the way Kuvempu proposed. The book also carries the opinions of 11 couples who preferred Mantra Mangalya to conventional forms of the ceremony.

C. Sadananda, son of Chandrashekhariah and Renuka of Bhadravathi, married his friend Katarzyna from Poland on October 2, 2022, in Shivamogga. "My son was interested in Mantra Mangalya. The bride's family, who were not particular about any custom, also agreed with the idea," said Chandrashekharatiah, a retired professor. Dr. Rajendra Chenni, a retired professor of English and critic, administered the oath in English. Prof. Chenni says, "With one stroke, Kuvempu did away with Sanskrit mantras and rituals and the huge expenses of wedding ceremonies."

Kannada actress Pooja Gandhi of Mungaru Male fame married Vijay Ghorpade in the Mantra Mangalya model, on November 29 last year. Across the State, many youngsters, particularly those who have read Kuvempu and Tejaswi and engaged in social movements, opt for Mantra Mangalya.

On the other hand, there are people who conduct simple marriages but end up hosting get-togethers for larger gatherings later, which does not follow Kuvempu's idea in letter and spirit.

A view of Kavimane, Kuvempu's home at Kuppali in Tirthahalli taluk. SATHISH G.T.

INBRIEF

Jagan calls on KCR, spends two hours over lunch

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy called on former Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao at his residence on Thursday. Mr. Rao underwent a surgery after a fall last month. Though the two-hour meeting over lunch was termed a courtesy call, it came at a time when Mr. Reddy's sister Y.S. Sharmila joined the Congress. What transpired between the leaders was not revealed to the public.

A.P. police rescue 1,506 children from 17 States

The Andhra Pradesh CID police have said that 1,506 children from 17 States engaged for works were rescued during raids in the State during 2023. Of them, 984 minors of different States were engaged in works due to poverty, according to a study taken up by the CID officials. "The raids were conducted in four phases titled 'Operation Svechha' across the State," said CID Additional Director-General (ADG), N. Sanjay.

A.P. anganwadi workers to stage hunger strike today

Anganwadi workers, who have been agitating for the past 24 days, will stage a hunger strike in Vijayawada on Friday and relay hunger strikes from January 6 (Saturday) in the districts across Andhra Pradesh, and the protest will be intensified if the YSRCP government does not concede their demands. Deploring the "apathetic attitude of Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy" towards the problems of the Anganwadi workers, CITU district general secretary alleged that the government was trying to suppress the agitation by the use of force.

Key Kerala parties downplay 'vote-for-Modi' pitch of BJP

LDF and UDF say the LS battle in State is between the ruling front and the Opposition and BJP is nowhere in the reckoning; Congress tries to 'purify' the venue of Modi's rally with cow dung water

G. Anand
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The ruling Left Democratic Front (LDF) and the Opposition United Democratic Front (UDF) on Thursday sought to downplay the Bharatiya Janata Party's gambit to strategically put Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the front and centre of its ambitious 2024 Lok Sabha campaign in Kerala.

Local leaders had pointedly taken a back seat at Wednesday's BJP-sponsored women's rally in Thrissur as Mr. Modi appealed directly to voters and presented himself as the embodiment of the party and Central government.

Police removing Youth Congress workers who protested trimming of trees in connection with the PM's visit in Thrissur. K.K. NAJEEB

Mr. Modi presented the Central government's welfare and development schemes as tangible manifestations of "Modi's guarantee" to the people.

Communist Party of India (CPI) State secretary Binoy Vishwam sought to deflate BJP's high-decibel "for-Modi" electoral pitch in Kerala by stating that the violence against women in Manipur belied Mr. Modi's grandstanding about gender rights in Thrissur.

In Thrissur, Congress workers resorted to symbolically purify the venue of Mr. Modi's rally by sprinkling water laced with cow dung, resulting in a skirmish with BJP activists.

BJP State president K. Surendran attempted to turn the tables on the Congress by emotively portraying the protest as an act of "elitist contempt" towards Mr. Modi's underprivileged backward class origins.

Leader of the Opposition V.D. Satheesan said, "The Lok Sabha battle in Kerala is between the ruling front and Opposition, and the BJP is nowhere in the reckoning". CPI(M) State Secretary M.V. Govindan echoed a similar view.

Two ferries meant for Kochi to operate in Ayodhya, Varanasi

John L. Paul
KOCHI

In a move that took many by surprise, the Cochin Shipyard Ltd. (CSL) has shipped two ferries built for the Kochi Water Metro to Uttar Pradesh for being operated in Ayodhya and Varanasi by the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI).

They are from the lot of 23 ferries for which the Kochi Water Metro Limited (KWML) had placed orders to be operated from the mainland to 10 islands in the Greater Kochi area.

Another six such electric-hybrid ferries will be built at the Hoogly Cochin Shipyard Ltd., a subsidiary of the CSL in Kolkata. Their delivery process will begin in June and may be deployed in Ayodhya, Varanasi, Mathura and Guwahati, it is learnt. Sources said this was part of the Ministry of Shipping's efforts to deploy electric and other low-carbon footprint ferries in the country's inland waterways.

The Kochi Water Metro ferries had won a global award – the Gussies Electric Boat Award 2022 – in the commercial ferry category, before they were commissioned in April 2023.

The CSL has so far handed over 12 of the 23 ferries to the KWML. Sources in the agency attributed the delay in delivering the remaining 11 to supply-chain issues. The KWML has been banking on the delivery of more ferries to extend the Kochi Water Metro's operations in the High Court-South Chitoor corridor and subsequently to Eloor, Cheranaloor, and Fort Kochi.

"The CSL has said handing over of two ferries to the IWAI will not be at the cost of the Kochi Water Metro project," sources said.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday

TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Friday: Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over coastal Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Lakshadweep. Dense fog in isolated pockets of Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Tripura, Sikkim and Odisha. Cold wave conditions likely in isolated pockets over Rajasthan, Punjab and Haryana

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	20.8	13.5	Kozhikode	0.2	31.4	25.4
Ahmedabad	—	25.5	14.3	Kurnool	—	31.2	21.2
Aizawl	—	24.7	12.2	Lucknow	0.8	17.2	10.8
Allahabad	9	18.2	13.6	Madurai	—	32.2	23.7
Bengaluru	—	29.2	18.8	Mangaluru	5	26.0	23.2
Bhopal	1	16.7	14.4	Mumbai	—	31.0	19.0
Bhubaneswar	—	27.8	16.0	Mysuru	—	30.0	18.0
Chandigarh	—	16.4	5.7	New Delhi	—	12.5	7.7
Chennai	17.1	30.2	24.5	Patna	—	22.8	11.7
Coimbatore	—	28.2	22.6	Port Blair	—	31.5	25.9
Dehradun	—	23.3	5.1	Puducherry	0.2	29.7	23.6
Gangtok	—	12.6	6.2	Pune	—	30.5	17.3
Goa	—	32.5	23.8	Raipur	—	28.4	15.7
Guwahati	—	27.0	12.5	Ranchi	—	24.6	12.6
Hubballi	—	29.0	19.0	Shillong	—	16.5	6.2
Hyderabad	—	28.6	18.7	Shimla	—	13.2	3.9
Imphal	—	21.3	7.1	Srinagar	—	10.6	-3.8
Jaipur	—	16.1	6.4	Thiruvananthapuram	—	35.4	24.7
Kochi	0.4	32.0	26.2	Tiruchi	—	30.5	23.4
Kohima	—	18.5	5.5	Vijayawada	—	29.3	21.0
Kolkata	—	25.7	14.0	Visakhapatnam	—	27.5	20.6

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	8	14	.24	166	111	
Bengaluru	.15	.12	.36	134	115	
Chennai	.28	.53	112	220	165	
Delhi	.15	.96	.94	426	392	
Hyderabad	6	.25	.43	410	—	
Kolkata	.14	.89	.27	204	145	
Lucknow	7	.43	.28	365	223	
Mumbai	8	.72	.43	254	175	
Pune	.10	.24	.23	217	150	
Visakhapatnam	.13	.57	.53	255	154	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Karauli, Rajasthan recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 394 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Aizawl, Mizoram recorded a healthy AQI score of 14

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

BANGALORE RURAL ZILLA PANCHAYATH
Office of Executive Engineer, Panchayath Raj Engineering Division, Bangalore Rural, Anand Rao Circle, Bangalore – 560009

No: EE/PRED/BNG(R)/TND No-06/TS/2023-24 Date: 04.01.2024

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION No:06/2023-24
(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

Tender is invited through KPP Portal by the Executive Engineer, P.R.E.D, Bangalore Rural, under different head of account. The work details can be obtained from the Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

The Tender Documents can be obtained and submitted on or before: **12-01-2024 upto 4.30 PM.** Further details contact this office during office working hours.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Panchayat Raj Engineering Division,
Bangalore Rural Dist. Bangalore

DIPR/CP/2864/SPAN/2023-24

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, Bommanahalli Division, Begur Main Road, Bommanahalli, Bengaluru -560 068.

No: BBMP/EE/BD/Tend-08/2023-24 Date: 04.01.2024

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)
(Two Cover) (Through GOK KPP only)

The Executive Engineer, Bommanahalli Division, BBMP, Bengaluru-68, invites tenders from eligible Contractors registered in BBMP or equivalent registration with KPWD/CPWD/BWSSB/Railways/MES/National Highway or any state Government Organisations for the construction of works detailed in the table below:

Sl. No.	Name of Works/Category	App. Value of Works (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD (in Rs.)
1	Maintenance of Night Shelter for Homeless people at Ward No. 174, Dr. Ambedkar Samudaya Bhavana, Ibbalur (Traffic Police Station), Sarjapur Main Road, Bengaluru - 102. (Others)	9.65	24,150/-
2	Maintenance of Night Shelter for Homeless people at Ward No. 175, BBMP Building (Old Primary Health Centre), Ground Floor, Bommanahalli, Begur Main Road, Bengaluru-68. (Others)	9.65	24,150/-
3	Maintenance of Night Shelter for Homeless people at Ward No. 188, Dr. Ambedkar Community Hall, Kodichikkanahalli Main Road, Bommanahalli, Bengaluru-68. (Others)	9.65	24,150/-
4	Maintenance of Night Shelter for Homeless people at Ward No. 194, Dr. Ambedkar Samudaya Bhavana, Gottigere, Jambusavari Dinne, Bengaluru-83. (Others)	9.65	24,150/-
5	Maintenance of Night Shelter for Homeless people at Ward No. 186, Shakthi Bhavana, BBMP Building, Jaraganahalli, Kanakapura Road, Bengaluru-78. (Others)	9.65	24,150/-

Calendar of Events: 1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the KPP portal from **06.01.2024 onwards.** (2) Last date and time for submission of tenders: **17.01.2024 upto 4:00 pm.** 3) Opening of Technical/Financial bids on: **18.01.2024 at 4:30 p.m. onwards.**

Further details can be had from the office of the above during office hours on all working days or visit KPP Portal website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Bommanahalli Division, BBMP

ಕನ್ನಡ ಮತ್ತು ಸಂಸ್ಕೃತಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ
ಕನ್ನಡ ಭವನ, ಜೆ.ಸಿ. ರಸ್ತೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು–560 002
ದೂರವಾಣಿ: 080–22213530/22241325
ಇ–ಮೇಲ್: kanbhavblr@gmail.com
ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್: www.kannadasiri.in, www.kanaja.in

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: DKC/2023-24/SE0015 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 04.01.2024

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
(ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾತ್ರ)

ಕನ್ನಡ ಮತ್ತು ಸಂಸ್ಕೃತಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯು ಏರ್ಪಡಿಸುವ ಜಯಂತಿಗಳು, ಪ್ರಶಸ್ತಿ ಪ್ರದಾನ, ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಹಬ್ಬಗಳ ಆಚರಣೆ ಇತ್ಯಾದಿ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮಗಳಿಗೆ ಅಗತ್ಯವಿರುವ ಊಟ/ತಿಂಡಿ/ಕಾಫಿ/ಟೀ/ನೀರು/ಡ್ರೈಫ್ರೂಟ್ಸ್ ಇತ್ಯಾದಿ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆ ಮಾಡಲು ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳಿಂದ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ನಿಗದಿತ ನಮೂನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಹಾಗೂ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ವಿಧಾನದಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ

1) ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗೆ ಇಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ : ರೂ. 75,00,000/–. **2) ಬಿಡ್ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ / ದಿನಾಂಕ:** https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in ದಿನಾಂಕ: 06.01.2024. **3) ಇಎಂಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ:** ರೂ.1,87,500/–. **4) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್ ಅಂತರ್ಜಾಲದಲ್ಲಿ ಅಪ್ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡುವ ಅಂತಿಮ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ :** 14.01.2024 ಸಂಜೆ 5.00 ಗಂಟೆ. **5) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ :** 16.01.2024 ಸಂಜೆ 3.00 ಗಂಟೆ. **6) ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ:** 18.01.2024 ಸಂಜೆ 4.00 ಗಂಟೆ. **7) ಯಾವುದೇ ವಿಚಾರಣೆ, ಸ್ಪಷ್ಟೀಕರಣಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದಾದ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ ವಿಳಾಸ ಹಾಗೂ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:** ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ಕನ್ನಡ ಮತ್ತು ಸಂಸ್ಕೃತಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಕನ್ನಡ ಭವನ, ಜೆ.ಸಿ. ರಸ್ತೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು–560 002. ದೂ : 080–22213530.

ಸಹಿ/– ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು
ಕನ್ನಡ ಮತ್ತು ಸಂಸ್ಕೃತಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು

ವಾ.ಸಾ.ಸಂ.ಇ/ವಾಪ್ರ/2868/ಆಕಾರ್/2023–24

PUBLIC NOTICE

Under the instruction, authority and information given by my Client I hereby issue this notice on the general public as under:

My Client is intending to purchase the Scheduled Properties from its owner M/s. Indo Bloom Limited having its Registered Office at Empire Infentry, 3rd Floor, No. 29, Infantry Road, Bangalore – 560001,

SCHEDULE OF THE PROPERTIES

1) ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF THE AGRICULTURAL LAND bearing Survey No. 4/2 situated within the jurisdiction of Sub–Registrar office of Doddaballapur Taluk, ToobagereHobli, Shrinivaspura Village, Doddaballapur Taluk, Bangalore Rural District, admeasuring 03 Acres 00 Gunthas and bounded on: To the East: Land belonging to Hanumanthegowda; To the West: Land belonging to Narayanamma; To the North: Survey No. 4/1; To the South: Tank Bund

2) All THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF THE AGRICULTURAL LAND bearing Survey No. 5/1A situated within the jurisdiction of Sub – Registrar office of Doddaballapur Taluk, ToobagereHobli, Srinivaspura Village, Doddaballapur Taluk, Bangalore Rural District, admeasuring 01 Acre 20 Gunthas and bounded on: To the East: Land belonging to Amir Jhan; To the West: Land belonging to Kariyamma; To the North: Land belonging to Rangaswamy; To the South: Land belonging to Kariyamma

3) ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF THE AGRICULTURAL LAND bearing Survey No. 5/1C situated within the jurisdiction of Sub – Registrar office of Doddaballapur Taluk, ToobagereHobli, Srinivaspura Village, Doddaballapur Taluk, Bangalore Rural District, admeasuring 01 Acre 21 Gunthas and bounded on: To the East: Land Belonging to D. Ramesh; To the West: Land belonging to Kariyamma; To the North: Land belonging to Kariyamma; To the South: Land belonging to Kariyamma

4) ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF THE AGRICULTURAL LAND bearing Survey No. 5/2 situated within the jurisdiction of Sub – Registrar office of Doddaballapur Taluk, ToobagereHobli, Srinivaspur Village, Doddaballapur Taluk, Bangalore Rural District, admeasuring 02 Acres 11 Gunthas and bounded on: To the East: Land belonging to D. Ramesh; To the West: Land belonging to Lakshmamma; To the North: Land belonging to Kariyamma; To the South: Land belonging to Hanumakka

5) ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF THE AGRICULTURAL LAND bearing Survey No. 7/8 situated within the jurisdiction of Sub – Registrar office of Doddaballapur Taluk, ToobagereHobli, Srinivaspur Village, Doddaballapur Taluk, Bangalore Rural District, admeasuring 00 Acres 10 Gunthas and bounded on: To the East: Land belonging to Late Pujappa; To the West: Government Road; To the North: part of Survey No. 7/6 (7/9); To the South: Land belonging to Yelligappa

That the Public at large is hereby notified that any person asserting any right, title, interest or claim over the Scheduled Properties or objecting to such sale in favour of my Client, shall within 10 days from the date of this notice, shall send a written communication to the address mentioned below with all the documentary proof for basing their claim / assertion. In the event if no claims are received within such period, my Client shall proceed with the final sale deed and any claims / objections received subsequent to the completion of sale transaction shall not be binding upon my Client.

Place: Dharwad
Dt: 04/01/2023

AJAY KULKARNI, ADVOCATE
B – 404, RT Enclave, 2nd Main, Narayanpur, DHARWAD – 580008. **Mob: 7259149654**

CITY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL HOSAPETE

No: CMC HPT/WS/MF/2023-24 Dated: 03-01-2024

TENDER NOTIFICATION (IFT) E-PROCUREMENT

2023-24 Municipal Fund tenders are invited for the work mentioned below as per KTPP act 2000 in two cover system are invited from the eligible Contractors/Firms registered in KPWD as mentioned below. in e-procurement the contractors / firms will have to upload all information, documents and rates etc., **www.kppp.karnataka.govt.in** 1) Tender Last Date: 16-01-2024 5.00 PM. 2) Opening for Technical Bid will be on Date: 17-01-2024 5.10 PM. 3) Opening for Financial Bid will be on Date: 18-01-2024 5.10 PM **Indent No:** 1) **DMA/2023-24/SE1291/CALL-2** Estimated Cost Rs in (Lakh) 90.00 (EMD : Rs. 180000.00) 2) **DMA/2023-24/SE1292/CALL-2** Estimated Cost Rs in (Lakh) 99.00 (EMD : Rs. 198000.00) any other information required can be obtained from the office of the CMC Hosapete during the working hours.

Sd/- Assistant Executive Engineer, CMC Hosapete
Sd/- Municipal Commissioner CMC Hosapete.
Sd/- President CMC Hosapete.

DIPR/Vijaynagara/314/2023-24/DESHPANDEPUBLICITY

भारत सरकार / अंतरिक्ष विभाग / Department of Space / Government of India
भारतीय अंतरिक्ष विज्ञान एवं प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान
Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology
(वि. अ. आयोग अधिनियम 1956 की धारा 3 के अधीन मानित विश्वविद्यालय घोषित)
(Declared as Deemed to be University under Section 3 of the UGC Act, 1956)
वलियमला, तिरुवनंतपुरम / Valiamala, Thiruvananthapuram 695 547, केरल / Kerala, www.iist.ac.in
दूरभाष / Phone 0471-2568478 ई मेल/ Email : projectrecruitment@iist.ac.in

परियोजना पदों के लिए ऑनलाइन आवेदन
Online Application for Project Positions

भारतीय अंतरिक्ष विज्ञान एवं प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान (आईआईएसटी) निम्नलिखित परियोजना पदों के लिए आवेदन आमंत्रित करता है।

Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology (IIST) invites online application for the following Project positions.

रिक्त पदों का नाम / Name of positions	पदों की संख्या / Number of position	मासिक परिलब्धियां Monthly Emoluments
परियोजना सहयोगी - I Project Associate - I	01	Rs.31000/- + HRA
वरिष्ठ परियोजना सहयोगी Senior Project Associate	01	Rs.42000/- + HRA
परियोजना वैज्ञानिक - I Project Scientist - I	01	Rs.56000/- + HRA
ऑनलाइन आवेदन भरने की अंतिम तिथि / Last date to fill online application	23.01.2024 (upto 1700 hrs)	

विस्तृत विज्ञापन और ऑनलाइन आवेदन के लिए कृपया हमारी वेबसाइट देखें:
For detailed advertisement and online application please visit our website: https://www.iist.ac.in/career/3

विज्ञापन सं./ आईआईएसटी/रीसिकी / Advt. No. IIST/Academics/01-01/2024 dt. 05.01.2024

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ ಯಾದಗಿರಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ಯಾದಗಿರಿ
(ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ನಗರಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕೋಶ)
E-mail : itstaff_dudc_yadgiri@yahoo.com : dudc_yadgiri@yahoo.com
ದೂರವಾಣಿ: 08473 253288, ಫ್ಯಾಕ್ಸ್: 08473 253701

ಕಡತ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ/ಜಿನಕೋ/ಯೋಜನೆ/ನಗರೋತ್ಥಾನ–04/ /2021–22 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 04.01.2024

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
(ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯುರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾತ್ರ)

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಮತ್ತು ಕಾನೂನು – 1999 ಹಾಗೂ ನಿಯಮಾವಳಿಗಳು –2000 ರಂತೆ ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಂದಿಯಿಸಿದ (ರೆಜಿಸ್ಟ್ರೇಷನ್) ಏಜೆನ್ಸಿದಾರರಿಂದ ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ kppp.karnataka.gov.in ರ ಮೂಲಕ ಕೆಳಗೆ ನಮೂದಿಸಿರುವ ದಿನಾಂಕದಂದು ಆನ್‌ಲೈನ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸತಕ್ಕದ್ದು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಕಚೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದು.

01) ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಪ್ರಾರಂಭ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 04.01.2024, **02) ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ವೇಳೆ:** 12.01.2024 Time : 17.30 **03) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ವೇಳೆ:** 16.01.2024 Time : 11.30 **04) ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ವೇಳೆ:** 23.01.2024 Time : 11.00

ಕ್ರ ಸಂ	ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ	ವಿವರ	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಮೊತ್ತ (ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ.ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)
1	DMA/2023-24/OW/WORK_INDENT 11693	Construction of Valmiki Bhavana in Shahapur Town, Construction of Asphalt Road and Drain From Manappa Yakshanthi CPI House to Bhimashankara Yakshanthi House at Ward No-29 in Shahapura Town & Construction of Main Drain From Honakerappa House to Bhirappa Hill at Halisagara Ward No-27 in Shahapura Town.	72.07	1,44,155/-
2	DMA/2023-24/BD/WORK_INDENT 11680	Construction of Library and Training Centre Building for Physically Handicap near Avantigeera oni Site No8-64 at Ward No-28 in Shahapura Town & Construction of Library and Training Centre Building for Physically Handicap Indiranagara Sy No 26 Ashraya layout CA Site at Ward No-04 in Shahapura Town.	53.54	1,07,083/-
3	DMA/2023-24/BD/WORK_INDENT11793	Proposed Construction Of Valmiki Bhavan And Construction Of Medhagalli Mallamma Bhavan At Shorapur Town Dist.Yadgir.	72.05	1,44,110/-
4	DMA/2023-24/OW/WORK_INDENT 11791	Development of Park in Shorapur Town : Construction of Compound Wall, FootPath & Adult Gym Equipments Near Taylors Bungalow Park, Construction of FootPath & Adult Gym Equipments Beside Raja Hanumappa Nayak Tata Building, Construction of Compound Wall ward no.09, Construction of Compound Wall Near Budhdha vihar road in ward no.10 at Shorapur Town.	74.49	1,48,998/-

ಷರತ್ತು: ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್‌ನ ಷರತ್ತಗಳ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸತಕ್ಕದ್ದು.

ವಾ.ಸಾ.ಸಂ.ಇ/ಯಾದಗಿರಿ/258/ಕೆ.ಎಸ್.ಎಂ.ಸಿ.&ಎ/2023–24

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ನಗರಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕೋಶ, ಯಾದಗಿರಿ

Shielding SEBI

SC should have pushed it to do more while not reviewing policy actions

The Supreme Court of India's ruling on a batch of petitions, filed in the wake of a U.S.-based short seller's allegations of malfeasance including stock price manipulation at the Adani group of companies, has squarely tossed the ball back to the markets regulator's court. The Court has opted to subordinate petitioners' entreaties to protect larger public interest to its chariness to substitute "its own wisdom over the regulatory policies" of the Securities and Exchange Board of India. In its 46-page order, the Bench headed by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud is emphatic in observing that "SEBI has prime facie conducted a comprehensive investigation" that "inspires confidence", and that "the facts of this case do not warrant a transfer of investigation from SEBI" given that "prima facie no deliberate inaction or inadequacy" was found in the regulator's conduct of its probe. Strikingly, the Bench has completely skirted the fundamental questions that the Court-appointed Expert Committee in its May 2023 report had opted to leave as a 'matter between SEBI and the Court' – the determination of possible violations pertaining to minimum public shareholding and related party transactions. The Bench has instead seized upon prayers urging the Court to direct SEBI to revoke its amendments to the Foreign Portfolio Investors Regulations and Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements – amendments that were at the heart of petitioners' submissions of regulatory failure – and roundly denied them on grounds that there was neither "any illegality", nor were the norms "capricious, arbitrary or violative of the Constitution".

The ruling has also done little to assuage investors' concerns about SEBI's approach to getting to the bottom of the allegations raised by Hindenburg Research in its January 2023 report. Without elaboration on any of the regulator's findings, the Court has blandly observed that "SEBI has completed 22 out of the 24 investigations into the Adani group" and that completion of the remaining two "are pending due to inputs being awaited from foreign regulators". The Bench has directed SEBI to complete these "expeditiously". While the Court's reluctance to review the policy actions of a 'specialised regulator' is understandable, the decision to leave the crucial question of SEBI's perceived tardiness in investigating allegations of corporate malfeasance and market manipulation by a large conglomerate back to the remit of the very same watchdog hints at a degree of judicial abstinence that may only undermine the larger public good. The Court is surely aware of past instances where it has found SEBI wanting in alacrity of enforcement, a facet flagged by the experts' panel appointed in this case as well. After all, 'justice must not only be done, but it must also be seen to be done'.

Terror in Iran

Iran should not walk into the web of provocations set by its rivals

The twin blasts in the southeastern Iranian city of Kerman at a memorial for Qassem Soleimani, the Quds Force commander whom the U.S. assassinated in Baghdad in January 2020, expose the security vulnerabilities of the Iranian regime at a time when conflicts are spreading in West Asia. At least 84 were killed in the worst terror attack in the Islamic Republic's history. Soleimani, the brain behind the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps' (IRGC) overseas operations, had enjoyed cult status when alive, and became a symbol of an embattled regime's resilience over the past four years. While Iran's leaders called it a terrorist attack but stopped short of blaming anyone, mid-rung officials said the responsibility for the attack "lies with the U.S. and the Zionist entity". However, on Thursday, the Islamic State (IS) claimed responsibility. For the IS, Soleimani was a sworn enemy as he had mobilised Shia militias to fight the IS in Syria and Iraq. These groups played a role in the urban battles in Iraq during 2018-19 that saw the destruction of the physical structures of the IS Caliphate. The group lost its proto state but survived as a terrorist entity in parts of Iraq, Syria and Afghanistan.

For Iran, the attack has come at a precarious moment when tensions are rising in West Asia. The Kerman memorial event was bombed a day after a senior Hamas leader was killed in Beirut in a drone strike, for which Lebanese officials have blamed Israel. Hezbollah, which has been engaging Israeli troops in a limited way since October 7, has vowed retaliation. On December 25, an Israeli strike in Syria killed Seyyed Razi Mousavi, a senior IRGC adviser. Israel, whose ongoing attack on Gaza has already killed at least 22,000 people, seems ready to take more risks even at the cost of regional escalation, while in the Red Sea, Iran-backed Houthi rebels of Yemen have been repeatedly attacking commercial vessels since late November. Pro-Iran Shia militias have targeted U.S. troops in Iraq and Syria since October 7, and on Thursday, a U.S. strike in Iraq killed a Shia militia commander. The Israel-Hamas war is no longer about just Israel and Hamas. It has put the whole region in a ring of fire. As chaos spreads the IS seems to have found an opportunity to strike its old enemy which is under pressure. The attack should serve as a warning to Iran and its rivals. If chaos and instability spread it would be a boon for jihadists. This calls for a de-escalation of the current regional crisis. Iran, on the other side, should not walk into the web of provocations set by its rivals. It should show restraint and focus on strengthening internal security.

Civil society under siege, in India

Rahul Mukherji

is Professor and Chair, Modern Politics of South Asia, South Asia Institute, Heidelberg University, Germany

Aditya Shrivastava

is German Chancellor Fellow, South Asia Institute, Heidelberg University, Germany

A free civic space regulated under constitutionally guaranteed principles is the essence of democracy. India is lucky to have an unusually diverse and vibrant civil society. However, constitutional freedoms are themselves under siege. It will be important to recognise and protect these freedoms by social and political forces who repose their faith in the constitution.

The anti-communal and progressive civic space is under the most serious attack by the state. This is also the section of society that will unite against Hindu nationalism under any party that offers the prospect of secularism, interpreted *assarva dharma sama bhava* (equal respect for all religions), and citizen well-being with economic growth.

The scale of attack

We explored the range of instruments deployed by the state to limit the civic space of 15 organisations, small and big, relying on domestic and foreign donations. These organisations include the well-known ones that have been attacked such as Amnesty International, the Centre for Equity Studies, Citizens for Justice and Peace, Lawyers Collective, Centre for Promotion of Social Concerns and Act Now for Harmony and Democracy (ANHAD), among significant others, who will remain unnamed.

The organisations we studied were viewed as being either neutral, moderate, or strong regarding their views on minority rights, Dalit rights, Adivasi (tribal) rights and equity promotion.

Our findings suggest that organisations that were actively fighting against communalism were the most significantly under attack. We coded the attacks on a scale where a high level of attack has occurred on organisations that have not only run out of funds but also whose leaders have either been sent to prison or have charges that can potentially incarcerate them. These would include organisations such as Citizens for Justice and Peace (CJP), Amnesty India, Oxfam, Centre for Equity Studies and Lawyers Collective.

Moderately attacked institutions are those whose activities have been severely curbed because of multiple attacks by the state. These organisations have almost come to a grinding halt. They include the Centre for Policy Research (CPR) and a significant non-governmental organisation (NGO) with American funding working in the non-communal space. Moderately attacked institutions also include fiercely anti-communal NGOs such as ANHAD. Some of the organisations in this area are even neutral on the anti-communal issue. An analysis of the moderate section in our scale suggests that the civic space has shrunk to such an extent that the Indian state is not even leaving a non-communal organisation such as the CPR alone. The current chair of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister and the Deputy Chairman of the NITI Aayog chaired by the Prime Minister are both from the CPR. One of the allegations against the CPR appears to be that it had some connections with Adivasi rights movements that impacted the mining interests of the tycoon Gautam Adani.

> The last bastion for India's democracy is being targeted, with the anti-communal and progressive civic space under the most serious attack by the state

Institutions that have been impacted by relatively low levels of attacks are generally not active in the anti-communal area, even though they may be pursuing significant human rights causes. These are institutions that have been attacked by just one instrument. The woes of organisations such as Navsarjan, which is a leader in Dalit rights, and Save The Children's work on child rights are less compared to the ones that have been hit moderately or at a high level.

We also found that the disciplining instruments deployed by the state can impact organisations. Greenpeace, for example, has transitioned from one that faced high intensity attack to one that now faces a low level of attack by our definition.

In the process, Greenpeace had to change its identity from one that was strong on its rights-based mobilisation towards advancing environmental concerns and Adivasi rights to one that has become much more lukewarm in that regard.

A range of instruments

We now turn to the variety of instruments that are being deployed. Attacks with penal consequences that can lead to imprisonment are charges of money laundering and investigations. We have not included the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act in our analysis and restricted ourselves to actions that largely afflict NGOs. The amendments, in 2019, to the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002, brought through the Finance Act enabled the Department of Revenue to work with a broader definition of proceeds of crime. This has resulted in the now well-known attacks on NGOs and Opposition politicians by the Enforcement Directorate.

The Emergency-era law from 1976, the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010 (FCRA), was made stringent in 2010 under the United Progressive Alliance government, and again under the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government in 2020. The BJP has used both the 2010 and 2020 provisions to take the right of NGOs to access foreign funds away from about 18,000 organisations between 2015 and 2022. Curiously enough, the FCRA's impact on foreign funding of political parties has been considerably weakened over time. But the same instrument has now been deployed with lethal effect on NGOs. Apart from the FCRA provisions, foreign donors are also intimidated by a Prior Reference Category List of around 80 internationally reputed donors who are monitored and intimidated for pursuing any human rights related causes.

Under the FCRA, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) too is empowered to investigate NGOs and their personnel with lethal impact. For example, the CBI has filed a supplementary charge sheet against Amnesty India and its chair of the Board, Aakar Patel. Such an action can have penal consequences. And the tedious process itself is punishment.

Domestic funding of non- and anti-communal NGOs is also under siege. Sections 12A and 80G of the Income-Tax Act provide tax exemptions for NGOs and donors, respectively. The 2020 amendments now make renewals of 12A and 80G certificates mandatory every five years. And donor data including their PAN card numbers must be made available to the Ministry of Finance. These provisions enable the state to intimidate domestic donors who wish to fight communalism and crony capitalism.

When the state has no excuse to penalise NGOs, it uses income-tax surveys as a way of collecting data that can be used to further escalate and institute more cases either by the CBI or the Tax Department.

Building on the Opposition's stand

The last bastion and ray of hope for India's democracy is its civic space. It is under serious threat. In the 2023 Assembly elections, the Congress's leaders (and now Chief Ministers) Siddaramaiah (Karnataka) and A. Revanth Reddy (Telangana) both took a clear secular position alongside welfare pledges that mobilised the anti-communal civic space against the BJP. Picking strong regional leaders will be critical for INDIA. Whether it was the "Eddelu Karnataka" (Wake-up Karnataka) or similar social movements in Telangana, they had one thing in common. Secular and progressive social and political forces came together in both these States. The Opposition INDIA bloc will not only need to fight like a single party. It will also need to mobilise the anti-communal and progressive civic space in its favour to save democracy.

Breaking new ground the Kerala way

Tikender Singh Panwar

is former Deputy Mayor, Shimla, and Member of the Kerala Urban Commission

As 2024 begins, there is some good news in the urban spectrum. After almost 38 years there is another urban commission, this time in the State of Kerala. The first, i.e., the National Commission on Urbanisation, was formed by the then Prime Minister of India Rajiv Gandhi, and was headed by Charles Correa, one of the finest architects of the country. However, with the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi, some of the important recommendations were not taken into consideration. But the 74th Constitutional Amendment was one of the positive outcomes. Since then, there has been a shift in policy paradigm for more private initiative and investment in urban development

Necessity of an urban commission

Currently, more than half of the world's population lives in cities (56%). When Capital was written by Marx, and cities were considered to be centres of industrial production and capital accumulation, there was just over 5% of the global population living in urban centres. The process of urbanisation has led to phenomenal changes across the world. Not only has it impacted climate change but has also created spatial and temporal changes such as massive land use, building typologies, iniquitous cities, duality, informality, crisis of pollution, housing, water and sanitation challenges, and some of the most unequal city spaces. One of the major processes of capital accumulation is the process of city development.

Post-independent India has witnessed two stark periods of development in the urban spectrum. The Nehruvian period lasted for almost three decades and began unravelling in the late 1980s. During this period, around 150 new towns were built with a holistic city approach, a characteristic feature being a centralised planning mechanism emphasising master plans/development plans. However, this process also failed miserably as it was drawn by the core idea of the state acting as a basic instrument of capital accumulation, pushing millions of people from rural to urban spaces, with manufacturing as the driving force. Manufacturing did not remain the central pivot of driving migration to the cities as it fell miserably and new areas were opened up. The cities still drew millions into its fold with the informal sector taking centre stage and the urban plans failing miserably.

> The Kerala Urban Commission can lead the way for the rest of India in understanding urbanisation as a whole process

The period of the 1990s is the one where the abject privatisation of cities began and global cities were the image on which the development process was built. Master plans were handed over to large parastatals, and big consultancy firms were hired to draw such plans. These companies gave away the concept of social housing, public health, education, and real estate was supposedly to be the core element of this hypothesis. Cities were made competitive and termed as 'engines of growth' – not spaces of enlightenment, future of dreams, and habitat. Instead of a whole city approach, a project-oriented approach was the guiding principle; mission mode of development, the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission, and the Smart Cities Mission were the buzzwords.

It is in such a background that the Urban Commission, formed in 1985, has to be revisited and relooked. Piecemeal approaches will not help. And neither are they making any breakthrough. Hence, an urban commission is required at the national and State levels to understand some of the interesting objective patterns of urbanisation. Migration is one of them. Settlement patterns are another one, and information technology is one of the enablers but also disablers. A holistic understanding of the process is required and must be developed. The urbanisation process cannot be reduced to some mission approaches such as the Swachh Bharat Mission or Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT), National Heritage City Development and Augmentation Yojana (HRIDAY), or Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY). All of them have failed in their desired results and are bound to fall further as they are distant from objective realities.

Likewise, the governance in cities is in a real mess. Eighteen subjects under the 12th Schedule that were supposed to be transferred to the cities are still far away. There is debate in political circles that there should be managers, instead of elected officials, running city affairs. The over-centralisation in the financial architecture is evident from the Fifteenth Finance Commission recommendations where the grants to the cities are linked to their performance in collecting property taxes and the increase in that should be commensurate to the State's Goods and Services Tax. These are complex processes unfolding in the urban realm.

It is in this light that the formation of the Kerala Urban Commission must be seen. Kerala has adopted this urban policy commission initiative that should address these complexities. Some of its members include M. Sathishkumar, an urban professor from Dublin, Janaki Nair, a historian, and K.T. Ravindran, Professor and Head of Urban Design at the School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi.

The commission's 12-month mandate aims to address the challenges of urbanisation, particularly in the context of Kerala's urbanised population, which NITI Aayog has estimated around 90%. The commission's role is to lay a road map for at least 25 years of urban development. Kerala's urban development cannot be divorced from the overall urban processes unleashed both at the global and national levels, and, hence, a proper estimation of them is also required.

Lighthouse for other States

What was desired was another national commission. However, even in its absence, the Kerala Urban Commission can be the lighthouse for other States such as Gujarat, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Punjab that have a high urban population. It is the process of taking forward the urban commission that should be a learning lesson for these highly urban populated States.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Court on SEBI probe

The Supreme Court upholding the SEBI probe should spell relief for the Adani empire (Page 1, January 4). With this the Opposition will have to stop targeting the Prime Minister and focus on having a clear narrative for the general election, especially when surveys predict the 2024 election being a done deal for the current regime.

S. Seshadri,
Chennai

The Supreme Court judgment will now lead to the allegations being levelled against the group fading away. The vociferous campaign of the Congress, and its leader Rahul Gandhi, seems to have misfired.

B. Gurumurthy,
Bengaluru

In prison

It is astounding that caste discrimination exists in prisons, which is also propagated by prison manuals. This is an issue that needs judicial action.

P.A.K. Murthy,
Chennai

Railways and RTI

It is unfortunate that the Indian Railways has 'tightened norms' for Zonal Railways with regard to furnishing information under the RTI Act. One wonders whether the railways has the power to 'tinker' with the RTI Act. The RTI is a perfect way to ensuring transparency. One should not be surprised if the RTI Act is scrapped under a possible third term of the Narendra Modi government.

Kshirasagara Balaji Rao,
Hyderabad

Book fair

There are many in the country who have stopped reading books, and have moved to the world of mobile phones. School students too do not read anything other than their textbooks. Letter writing, an art, has vanished. Referring to words of salutation such as 'dear', 'respected', 'faithfully' and 'sincerely' invites quizzical looks. The shift to WhatsApp, Facebook and X has dealt a blow to the general book reading habit. Hence, the Tamil Nadu government's move to hold book fairs in all the districts in the State must be lauded (Chennai, "Chennai Book Fair kicks off at YMCA grounds in Nandanam", January 4). Students must also be encouraged to get back to the newspaper reading habit.

A.J. Rangarajan,
Chennai

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address.

Is higher education out of touch with the skill requirements in the job market?

PARLEY

Furqan Qamar

is Professor, Department Of Management Studies, at Jamia Millia Islamia

Santosh Mehrotra

is Professor in Jawaharlal Nehru University

Reports by private agencies state that fewer than half of India's graduates were employable in 2021. According to the Periodic Labour Force Survey, the unemployment rate among graduates is higher than in many other developing countries. Students who enrolled in college during the pandemic have now graduated and there are concerns over their employability and the quality of online education. Is higher education in India out of touch with the skill requirements in the job markets? Furqan Qamar and Santosh Mehrotra discuss the question in a conversation moderated by **A.M. Jigeesh**. Edited excerpts:

Has online learning impacted employability?

Santosh Mehrotra: There was a problem with employability well before this craze for online learning took off. It is important to understand that those who have acquired or are acquiring higher education are those who belong to at least the top 20-30% of the income distribution, so they are relatively well off; a vast majority of the country's youth don't even manage to enter higher education. Higher education enrolment rates are still about 27% (18-23-year-olds). In 2012, the unemployment rate among graduates was 20%; it shot up to 34% in 2021. Among postgraduates, it used to be 18% in 2012; it doubled to nearly 37%. Why am I saying this? Because even before the online boom, the problem with our education system was structural. A major reason for this was the massification of higher education between 2006 and 2018. Because of this, the number of private colleges grew and quality deteriorated. State governments, the Central government and the University Grants Commission did not have the capacity to regulate [them]. These universities just became exam-giving institutions. Online education is an additional problem, which perhaps Professor Qamar can speak about.

Furqan Qamar: Yes, educated people are not getting jobs and therefore unemployment is an issue. But if graduates are not getting jobs in India, that could also be because the economy is not creating any jobs. That is why we have so many graduates leaving the country in search of better opportunities abroad.

Online learning did cause learning losses. We meet students who say that they missed a lot [while studying from home] and that it was a challenge to concentrate for long hours on screen. There were learning deficiencies and that has affected the abilities of these students to acquire knowledge and become more employable. Ed-tech companies are downsizing as students themselves realised that such companies wouldn't serve their purpose.

GETTY IMAGES

You said that the economy is not creating jobs. Agriculture is still the largest employment-providing sector and the share of the manufacturing sector in providing jobs is coming down. So, how can skill enhancement in institutions of higher education bring changes in primary sectors?

FQ: Agriculture in India remains largely conventional. It has not become high tech, so I don't see mainstream graduates joining agricultural professions. Even in the services sector, the jobs that are being created require a high level of knowledge. But most jobs, such as of delivery boys, are not preferred jobs for educated people although in the absence of jobs, they might be found in these jobs.

Higher education institutions are essentially knowledge institutions. When they create new knowledge, it leads to the development of new technologies, the possibilities of new businesses, innovation, entrepreneurship, and start-ups.

SM: There are structural problems with the higher education sector. One, our research and development (R&D) expenditure as a proportion of GDP is only 0.7%. In Korea, it is 4%. So, how will new knowledge get created? Second, globally, the private corporate sector accounts for about 70% of total R&D expenditure; only 30% comes from the government. In India, the public sector accounts for some 70% of the total R&D expenditure and the private sector's contribution is relatively small. Private sector jobs in research are not growing. Third, unlike in the rest of the world, where most research takes place in universities, a very small proportion of public funding goes towards research within universities. Most of it from government sources goes towards the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, Indian Council of Medical Research, etc. This is problematic because these public research institutions don't have the mechanism of translating their research output into actual usable products and processes which can help ordinary people. The only way we are going to solve this problem is by creating institutions that convert patents or research scientific research papers into products and processes. Or universities have to be funded more and industry will have to be associated with this. Finally, unfortunately, our country still doesn't have an industrial policy or a manufacturing strategy. Young, educated researchers are absorbed in high-value services. There are 800 multinationals which have set up their global hubs for research here. But the value of that research flows abroad.

> Industrial Training Institutes have grown in number as affiliated colleges have grown in number at a phenomenal rate. When you get this level of massification, the issue of quality arises.
>
> **SANTOSH MEHROTRA**

Professor Mehrotra, some reports suggest that India has a higher percentage of employable women graduates than men. But participation of women in the workforce is very low. Does it have anything to do with skill enhancement and opportunities for education for women in India?

SM: Indeed, it does. India's female labour force participation is among the lowest in the world. It's as low as in Yemen and Saudi Arabia. But let's remember that girls are getting better educated than before. India managed to rapidly ensure gender parity at the secondary level, which is unusual for its level of per capita income. So, more and more women became better educated and their aspirations are not to get married immediately. But what are they going to do if jobs are not growing?

This is the fourth year of the 2020 National Education Policy, which promised integration of skills with traditional syllabi and curricula. How do you assess the impact of NEP in fulfilling these requirements?

FQ: The selective implementation of the policy is a problem. Whatever is happening is happening in the name of the policy, while the policy may be providing different things. As a result, we have not seen any substantive change in the education system on the ground. Instead, it has led to controversies and confusion about what higher education institutions should do.

Let me give an example. The policy clearly said that there should be a common basis for admitting students. It also mentioned that the National Testing Agency would hopefully have these systems and processes and that people may want to use those scores as a basis for selecting students. But then the policy underscored that the decision whether to use those scores or not would be left solely to individual higher education research institutions. That is a very good articulation as far as the autonomy of higher education is concerned. But then what we saw was that the Central University Entrance Test was introduced. Then we started talking about 'one nation, one examination'. So the higher education system is quite confused.

This takes me back to an earlier question on women. In engineering or in job-oriented courses, women are in lower numbers than boys, but on the whole, on average, there are more women. But let's talk of the larger issue of social growth equity. Are Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Muslims participating more in higher education? They are now almost close to as much as reservation provides, but they are still far lower as compared to their share in the population in the country. The policy doesn't talk about specific equity actions. The intervention strategies for promoting inclusiveness and equities for different sets of people need to different.

India's industrial training institutes (ITI) and Polytechnic colleges were helping the poor and marginalised students to learn some skills. How are they placed to address this issue of inequality in skilled employability?

SM: ITIs have grown in number as affiliated colleges have grown in number at a phenomenal rate. When you get this level of massification, the issue of quality arises. This brings me back to the NEP which exhorts the country to go from the current level of 27% of gross enrolment ratio in higher education to 50% in a matter of another 12 years. This is a bizarre goal and the government has not increased allocations as to achieve this. I have an alternative: divert students at the end of Class 10 and Class 12 away from higher education towards ITIs and better vocational training institutions. And improve quality by engaging with industry and employers.

To listen to the full interview
Scan the code or go to the link
www.thehindu.com

NOTEBOOK

Tamil Nadu leaders and their canine friends

Though they may be rivals in politics, many politicians share a common love

B. Kolappan

Interviewing politicians can be tricky. Sometimes, they provide answers that help us understand their motivations, opinions on controversial issues, and future plans, but sometimes they can be abrasive, evasive, or maintain a stony silence. Interviewing them again and again helps to break the ice and establish a relationship. Conversations then tend to throw up facets of their personality that the public seldom gets to see. In the case of Tamil Nadu's politicians, I realised that I had something in common with many of them: a love for dogs. And this would often figure in our conversations.

When Desiya Murpokku Dravidar Kazhagam (DMDK) founder and actor Vijayakant, or 'Captain' as he is popularly called, died recently, I was reminded of this fact. Vijayakant was an animal lover. There are various breeds of dogs at the DMDK's party headquarters. I recall seeing an Afghan Hound, a German Shepherd, a Dobermann, a Husky, and a Great Dane. They are all now maintained by his son, Vijay Prabhakaran, who inherited his love for dogs from his father.

Vijayakant was, in fact, so attached to his dogs that he once cancelled a meeting of party MLAs when Lucky, his bull mastiff, was not keeping well. Vijayakant was then the Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly. Vijayakant took his dogs to the veterinarian Chockalingam. When I spoke to Chockalingam after the actor-turned-politician's death, he told me that even when Vijayakant was not well, he would urge the vet to visit his calves and give them vaccination shots. He would always feed his cow a carrot in the morning before leaving home. And on returning home, he would first visit his dogs.

In 1998, there was a rumour that Jayalaithaa, who was Chief Minister then, had had a disagreement with leaders of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) when she left a meeting of the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance. Though there was truth in it (she subsequently withdrew support to the government led by Atal Bihari Vajpayee in a move that eventually brought down the government), she left that particular meeting halfway because Julie, her favourite Spitz, had died. The death of Julie affected her so much that Jayalalithaa refused to keep dogs after that. When she was admitted in Apollo hospital on an earlier occasion, Julie was taken in a basket to the hospital to be with the All-India Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam leader.

Though her arch-rival in politics, former Chief Minister and Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) leader M. Karunanidhi shared Jayalalithaa's love for dogs. Karunanidhi's dogs included Khanna, a Lhasa Apso; Singham, a pug; and Blackie, a Dachshund, his blue-eyed dog who would apparently be given whatever he ate. He even turned vegetarian for two years after Blackie's death. He would treat his dogs like his children and speak to them often. A photo of Karunanidhi posing with Khanna hangs on the wall of his Gopalapuram residence along with the photos of political leaders.

His love did not stop with the dogs at home. When he was active, Karunanidhi would go to Anna Arivalayam, the DMK headquarters, for his morning walks. There, he befriended a street dog, which would accompany him on his walks. Karunanidhi became so attached to the dog that he even spoke about the canine in a few public meetings.

Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (MDMK) general secretary Vaiko, who would enthrall his audience with his knowledge of world history, also had a dog he loved – a Rajapalayam called Peritas. Once, he asked me whether I had heard the name Peritas. When I said I had not, he explained that Peritas was the favourite dog of Alexander the Great and even accompanied him during his military conquests.

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PICTURE OF THE WEEK

Tragedy on the runway

A Japan Airlines passenger plane burst into flames after a Japan coastguard aircraft collided with it at Tokyo's Haneda airport. While all the 379 passengers and crew on board the passenger plane were safely evacuated, five of the six on board the coastguard aircraft died. AFP

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO JANUARY 5, 1974

Dutch team at work on salvaging ship

Visakhapatnam, Jan. 4: Six Dutch divers have come here to do what no Indian could do for the past eight years. The Vizag Port Trust will have to pay more than Rs. 50 lakhs for their brains, experience and of course diving skill. Since they will be mostly employing Indian men and material, the total cost will work out to Rs. 83.52 lakhs. What they are doing looks absurdly simple; salvaging a wrecked ship, that has been lying on the bottom of the sea for eight years now, its 17,000 DWT collecting sand all around, rusting badly in the salt water and the air, a growing menace to shipping in the outer harbour.

The Dutch seem to be more at home under the water than on the sea. "The amount of hard work they turn in is amazing. They go out to the sea at 7 a.m. and go on working as long as there is enough light for them to see," says Mr. B.K. Rao, Chairman of the Port Trust.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JANUARY 5, 1924

Kenya Council

Nairobi, Jan. 4: The Kenya Legislative Council has passed a constitution bill following out the terms of the White Paper providing for the election of eleven Europeans, five Indians and one Arab exclusive of official majority. The franchise of Indians is neither on literary nor on property qualifications and all adults of both sexes can exercise votes. It also includes the subject of Native Indian States. Governor Coryndon said he regretted that Indian legislators were not present at the meeting of the Council to share the passage of the bill.

From Page One

8 Indians get 60 days to contest Qatar jail terms

Outlining a plan for the future, Mr. Jaiswal said the court had given 60 days to the Indian legal team to appeal against the jail terms. "As far as the next step is concerned, 60 days are there when the matter can come up for appeal in the Court of Cassation which is the highest court of Qatar," said Mr Jaiswal. It is understood that the 60 days will be counted from the day of the latest order that commuted the death penalty.

Consular access

Qatar, a strong regional player, is a key supplier of energy to India and at least seven lakh Indians form a part of the foreign work force in the Gulf nation. Both sides have not revealed the details of the case that cast a shadow on bilateral relation over the past 16 months. India maintained close contact with the families of the eight men in the backdrop of the high tension case and extended necessary legal help. The MEA had informed earlier that Indian diplomats stationed in Qatar were granted consular access to the men on three occasions by the authorities in Doha.

Though the details of the case are not in the public domain, it was speculated that the matter pertains to defence secrets of the Qatari military forces. The eight Indian nationals, who are highly regarded for their domain knowledge, were employed by Dahra Global, an entity that catered to Qatar's expanding basket of defence projects. Dahra Global was shut down after the case came to light.

'Modi' remark: Khera gets no relief from SC

Initially, FIRs had been separately registered against Mr. Khera with the Haflong police at Dima Hasao district in Assam, Varanasi and Hazratganj in Uttar Pradesh.

The top court intervened on February 23, 2023, to protect Mr. Khera just hours after he was deboarded from an IndiGo flight at the Delhi airport and detained. Mr. Khera, the chairperson of the Media and Publicity Department of the All India Congress Committee, was deplaned after communication was received by the Domestic Airport Police in Delhi from the Haflong police station at Dima Hasao in Assam. He had been on his way to Raipur to attend a party plenary session.

'Deliberate attempt to denigrate'

In the series of top court hearings which followed the February 23 incident, the State of Uttar Pradesh had contended that Mr. Khera's utterances were a "deliberate attempt to denigrate a constitutional functionary". The State had accused him of "dishonourably uttering the name of the late father of the Hon'ble Prime Minister to be 'Gautam Das' and further sarcastically remarking that though the name of his late father is Damodar Das' but his work is similar to that of 'Gautam Das'".

Mr. Khera had been variously booked under Sections 153A (promoting religious enmity), 153B (imputations or assertions prejudicial to national integration), 295A (outraging religious feelings), 500 (defamation), 504 (intentional insult to provoke breach of peace), 505 (statements amounting to public mischief), and 120B (criminal conspiracy) of the Indian Penal Code.

Sharmila joins Cong., to take on brother Jagan

Ms. Sharmila was reportedly hoping to consolidate her work in Telangana and, as a gesture, had announced support for the Congress during the recent Telangana Assembly election.

Congress eyeing turnaround

The Congress, however, is hoping that bringing her on board will revive the party's electoral fortunes and enable it to reclaim YSR's legacy in Andhra Pradesh.

"This is a turnaround moment for the Congress in Andhra Pradesh and we consider it as the starting point of a Congress comeback in the State," the Congress's Andhra Pradesh in-charge Manickam Tagore said. In the last two general elections, the Congress could not win a single seat in the State.

Long-standing feud

There has been a long-standing feud between the siblings, the result of a prolonged power struggle after YSR's death in a helicopter crash in September 2009. Mr. Jagan Mohan Reddy inherited YSR's mantle, launched the Yuvajana Sramika Rythu Congress Party (YSRCP) in 2011, and went on to become Chief Minister in 2019; but none of his family members got a place in the power structure.

Despite this, as many Congress leaders pointed out on Thursday, Ms. Sharmila played an active role in building up the YSRCP. "When Jagan was jailed in 2012, Sharmila had led a 3,000-km walkathon across 14 districts of undivided Andhra in his support," a senior Congress leader pointed out.

However, Ms. Sharmila was ultimately forced out of Andhra Pradesh and, in July 2021, launched the YSR Telangana Party.

She now faces the challenge of having to backpedal many of her pro-Telangana statements, which often run counter to sentiments in Andhra Pradesh.

SC declines to take up plea by Indian held in Prague for 'plot' to kill Pannun

Judge says court has to respect principles of international law and the sovereignty of courts and will go strictly by Vienna Convention; petitioner governed by law of country where he is held

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

> This is a sensitive matter for the government also... We will not make any statements in this court. It is for the government to do what they want to do
>
> **JUSTICE SANJIV KHANNA**
> Supreme Court judge

The Supreme Court on Thursday refused to intervene in a plea by an Indian national for assistance from the Union government to defend his rights in a foreign court after being detained in Prague for alleged involvement in a conspiracy to murder the U.S.-based Khalistani activist Gurpatwant Singh Pannun.

A Bench headed by Justice Sanjiv Khanna said the Supreme Court could not do anything in a sensitive matter involving public international law, and it was up to the Government of India to decide how to deal with the issue.

"This is a sensitive matter for the government also. It has its own ramifications. We will not make any statements in this court. It is for the government to do what they want to do," Justice Khanna addressed senior advocate C.A. Sundaram and advocate Rohini Musa.

Justice Khanna said the court had to respect the principles of international law and the comity and sovereignty of courts.

Consular access

"The only thing you are entitled to under the Vienna Convention is consular access. In case consular access is denied or not accessible, you can approach the authorities," the judge told Mr. Sundaram. The Bench noted that according to his petition, he was given consular access. An officer of the Indian embassy in Prague had visited him while in detention on September 17, 2023.

Besides, the petitioner, identified anonymously as 'Mr. X', had successfully moved the Delhi High Court for release of documents. "I [petitioner] was given the extradition order only yesterday. Against that, I can appeal. I need consular assistance. ... It is not that consular assistance is given once and dusted. It is an ongoing process... I have no access to an interpreter or translator. I am only asking the Government of India, as an Indian citizen, to give me assistance in those regards. I am only seeking legal aid from the government... I have sought assistance from the Indian embassy and Ministry of External Affairs in this regard... I have not received a response from any of them," Mr. Sundaram submitted on behalf of Mr. X.

He said a subsequent indictment of Mr. X, which superseded an earlier one, was "completely on the basis that he had acted at the behest, if I may say so, at the instructions of the authorities concerned with the Union of India". "We are not going to allow you to touch that part... We are not concerned with the issue pending over there... It is a sensitive matter for the Government of India," Justice Khanna intervened.

Mr. Sundaram said this was, however, also a question of human rights.

"We are aware of that, but you are governed by the law of that country. We will go strictly by the Vienna Convention," Justice Khanna replied.

"I am only saying my own country has to assist me," Mr. Sundaram persisted. The senior lawyer urged the court to at least treat the writ petition as a representation to the government. The court recorded the submission of the lawyer without making any comments, allowing the government to proceed according to law.

Maharashtra Cabinet permits Old Pension Scheme option

The Hindu Bureau
PUNE

Employees during a protest to demand restoration of the OPS, in Thane, on Thursday. PTI

The Eknath Shinde Cabinet in Maharashtra on Thursday cleared a proposal that offers State government employees who joined service after November 2005 on the basis of recruiting advertisements issued before that date the option of availing themselves of the benefits of the Old Pension Scheme. The decision comes days after government and semi-government employees struck work, demanding the restoration of the OPS.

"It was decided in the Cabinet meeting today to give the Old Pension Scheme option to those employees who joined government service on or after November 1, 2005, as per the advertisements before November 1, 2005," said a statement issued by the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) after the meeting. "Such government officers and employees are being given a one-time option to implement provisions of the Maharashtra Civil Service Pension Rules, 1982, Maharashtra Civil Service Pension Rules, 1984 and General Provident Fund and Ancillary Rules on the lines of the Central Government," it added. There are at least 9.5 lakh State employees who joined the service before November 2005 who already enjoy the benefits of the OPS.

Under the OPS, a government employee got a monthly pension equivalent to 50% of their last-drawn salary. There was no need for any contribution by employees. Under the New Pension Scheme (NPS), a State government employee contributes 10% of her basic salary plus dearness allowance, with the State making a matching contribution. The money is then invested in one of the several pension funds approved by the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) and the returns are market-linked.

The CMO note said that the State government employees concerned will be required to give the option to implement the OPS within six months from the publication of the government decision.

Crisis averted as Manipur group agrees to accept bodies of four slain men for last rites

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

N. Biren Singh meets the family members of the people who died in the violence that occurred in the Lilong area, on January 2. ANI

An organisation of Meitei Muslims, also called Pangals, has decided to accept the bodies of four people gunned down by armed extremists for the last rites after the Manipur government agreed to its demands.

The outlawed People's Liberation Army claimed responsibility for gunning down four members of the Pangal community on January 1. The outfit said its members had fired in self-defence after the residents of Lilong Chingjao in Thoubal district attacked them for trying to take away a drug trafficker.

To avert a crisis over the refusal of the Pangals to accept the bodies for burial, Chief Minister Nongthombam Biren Singh held a meeting with members of the community's Joint Action Committee (JAC) in the State's capital Imphal on January 3.

In a post on X (formerly Twitter), Mr. Singh said he met the leaders of the Pangal civil society organisations in the presence of Rajya Sabha member Leishemba Sanajaoba, Minister K. Govindas, and Lilong MLA Abdul Nasir. Expressing his deep sorrow for the firing incident, the Chief Minister said the government had agreed to all the demands put forth by the JAC.

"The community has agreed to accept the bodies of the individuals killed in the armed militant attack," he said.

"Our charter of demands included handing over the killing of four of our people to the National Investigation Agency and not allowing any members of independent organisations other than Central and State forces and agencies to enter the Meitei Pangal-inhabited areas of Manipur," a JAC member said.

The JAC sought the formation of a village protection force in each Meitei Pangal-inhabited area, *ex-gratia* of ₹10 lakh to each of the victims of the January 1 firing, and a suitable government job to the next of kin of these victims.

New rules for granting symbols to new parties

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Election Commission of India (ECI) on Thursday brought in new rules for the allocation of symbols to registered unrecognised political parties (RUPPs), making it mandatory for them to furnish audited accounts of the last three financial years, expenditure statements of the last two elections, and the signature of the authorised office-bearer of the party along with the application form for symbols. The new rules would come into effect from January 11.

AePS frauds comprised 11% of financial scams: I4C

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Aadhaar-enabled Payment System (AePS) frauds contributed to 11% of the total number of cyber-financial frauds that had its origin in India in 2023, an analysis by the Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre (I4C) said. Most of these were committed in Bihar and Jharkhand. Last year, the Central government's portal (cybercrime.gov.in) and 1930 helpline received 13,10,329 complaints regarding cyber-enabled financial frauds. The AePS frauds included the cloning of biometrics.

AePS is a payment service that allows a bank customer to use Aadhaar as his/her identity to access his/ her Aadhaar-enabled bank account.

An analysis of the National Cybercrime Reporting Portal said that there were two kinds of cyber financial frauds - local and international.

Changes in Navy's top deck: Dinesh K. Tripathi is new Vice-Chief of Naval Staff

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

Vice Admiral Dinesh. K. Tripathi exchanges greetings with the Navy officers on Thursday. ANI

Vice-Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi took over as the Vice-Chief of the Naval Staff (VCNS) on Thursday. A day before, Vice-Admiral Sanjay Jasjit Singh took over from him the responsibility of Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief (FOCINC), Western Naval Command, at *INS Shikra* in Mumbai.

The Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral R. Hari Kumar, is set to step down on superannuation on April 30 when Vice-Admiral Tripathi will be the senior-most Naval officer. All three Services will get new Chiefs this year. In another change, Vice-Admiral V. Srinivas took over as 30th FOCINC of the Southern Naval Command in a ceremonial parade at the Naval Base in Kochi on December 31. He replaced Vice-Admiral M. A. Hampiholi, who retired after close to four decades in the Navy.

An alumnus of Sainik School, Rewa, and National Defence Academy, Khadakwasla, Vice-Admiral Tripathi was commissioned into the Navy on July 1, 1985. A communication and electronic warfare specialist, on promotion to the rank of Vice-Admiral in June 2019, he was appointed Commandant of the Indian Naval Academy at Ezhimala, Kerala, and served as Director-General of Naval Operations from July 2020 to May 2021. Later, from June 2021 to February 2023, he served as the Chief of Personnel.

Before taking over as the FOCINC, Vice-Admiral Singh served as the VCNS at Naval Headquarters. He was commissioned in 1986 into the Executive Branch of the Navy.

Among other appointments, Vice-Admiral Kiran Deshmukh assumed charge as the Chief of Materiel (COM).

In the Army, Lt. General R.C. Tiwari assumed charge as the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Eastern Command on January 1.

Lt. Gen. Navin Sachdeva took over the Command of the White Knight Corps from Lt. Gen. Sandeep Jain. Lt. Gen. Nagendra Singh assumed the command of the Chetak corps. Lt. Gen. Prit Pal Singh assumed the command of the Sudarshan Chakra Corps from Lt. Gen. Vipul Shinghal.

Delhi HC tells Mahua Moitra to approach Directorate of Estates

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Thursday asked Trinamool Congress leader Mahua Moitra to approach the Directorate of Estates to seek permission to continue the occupation of the government-allotted accommodation here.

In December last year, Ms. Moitra was expelled from the Lok Sabha over cash-for-query allegations. The Trinamool MP was accused of taking bribes from Dubai-based businessman Darshan Hiranandani in return for asking questions in Parliament.

Following her expulsion, Ms. Moitra was issued notice to vacate her official residence within 30 days on January 7.

"Move a representation before the Directorate of Estates and their action will be taken in accordance with the law," the court told Ms. Moitra, who withdrew her plea challenging cancellation of her government accommodation.

APPEAL

Baby Trideep Mondal, son of Palash Mondal 2 years admitted in Manipal Hospital, Bengaluru is suffering from congenital heart disease, Tetralogy of Fallot (TOF), Confluent Branch PAs. He requires to undergo total correction for TOF at the earliest. The estimated cost of the surgery is **Rs. 5,00,000/-**.

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Congress holds first meeting of manifesto committee

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The first meeting of the Congress Manifesto Committee was held here on Thursday.

Panel chairperson P. Chidambaram, who presided over the meeting, said only preliminary discussions were held. The other members of the committee, including Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramiah and Jairam Ramesh, T.S. Singh Deo, Anand Sharma and Shashi Tharoor, were present.

Briefing presspersons, Mr. Chidambaram said: "The most important decision is that we will meet again next week. Nothing was decided today. It was an exchange of preliminary thoughts and ideas, and how we proceed with the drafting of the manifesto," he said.

The next meeting of the committee will be held virtually on January 11. Sources said it was decided that the ideas that the party gathers through its consultations with people during the Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra that begins on January 14 will also be incorporated into the document. The party will also reach out to civil society members who participated in the Bharat Jodo Yatra.

"We believe that we should have a solid manifesto. It should be a manifesto that speaks to the people, that shows them the alternative that we're offering," Mr. Tharoor said.

Congress panel briefs Kharge on State units' seat-sharing wish list

Mukul Wasnik says discussions with allies will begin soon; sources say party's leadership is hoping to have seat divisions in place by Jan. 20

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

Poll plans: Congress leaders Mukul Wasnik and Salman Khurshid after the party's national alliance committee meet on Dec. 30. ANI

With INDIA bloc allies breathing down its neck to come up with a seat-sharing formula at the earliest, the Congress's five-member National Alliance Committee on Thursday briefed Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on the consultations they held with the party's State units, 12 days after its first meeting on December 23.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and general secretary K.C. Venugopal were present at the meeting.

"We consulted our State units on how many seats we could contest and how many our allies. We briefed Mr. Kharge, Mr. Gandhi and Mr. Venugopal on our findings. We shall begin discussion with our allies as early as possible and are seeking their convenience to begin the talks," the committee's convener, Mukul Wasnik, told presspersons after the meeting.

At a meeting of party office-bearers earlier in the day, Mr. Gandhi stressed the need to work closely with the INDIA bloc allies. Mr. Kharge, too, spoke of the need to ensure "micro management" of the voters' list. This is a concern raised by several allies, who insist that the seat-sharing formula has to be in place, so that this exercise can be done closely.

Mr. Wasnik refused to set any deadline to complete the negotiations. "We are cognisant of the fact that we have to complete this exercise at the earliest," he said. However, sources said that the party's leadership is hoping to have the seat divisions in place by January 20.

Mr. Wasnik also ducked questions on several internal contradictions within the INDIA bloc, especially in West Bengal, Delhi, and Punjab. In West Bengal, the Congress has to decide whether it wants to ally with the Left parties or with the Trinamool Congress, since the Left has ruled out being part of an alliance where the Trinamool is present.

In Punjab, the Aam Aadmi Party defeated the Congress in the 2022 Assembly elections to form the government and remains its primary political rival in the State.

"See, I will not be in a position to say how we are going to deal with each of the political parties in the alliance," Mr. Wasnik said.

At the last meeting of INDIA bloc leaders on December 19, the Trinamool had said, in no uncertain terms, that the seat-sharing formula should be in place by December 31. That deadline is long past.

"It seems they need more time. We are committed to the INDIA bloc, so we shall wait for another couple of days," a senior Trinamool leader privy to the seat negotiations said.

The regional parties have also uniformly urged the Congress to be more accommodative of their demands. The party will have to brace itself for fights over limited seats in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh.

The Hindu Lit Fest: championing free speech, democracy, pluralism

Swati Daftuar
CHENNAI

For over a decade now, *The Hindu* Lit Fest has celebrated literature and its many facets, playing host to authors and performers, culture icons and eminent professionals.

The festival, in its 2024 edition to be held on January 26 and 27, once again promises to provide a platform that encourages and nurtures the exchange of ideas, allowing participants and audience to engage consciously with the important questions of the day.

The Hindu Lit Fest ensures that it actively makes room for an experience that both fosters and champions, above all, "free speech, the highest ideals of democracy, and a pluralism of expression in the arts and literature".

As The Hindu Group Chairperson Nirmala Lakshman puts it, these are the "underlying core values that reflect the newspaper's ethic". They reflect the principles on which the festival, Dr. Lakshman's brainchild, was founded back in the year 2010.

Voice of the unheard

"We also ensure space for the quieter unheard voices, for work that may not always be very visible, which we believe is valuable and needs to be showcased," she says.

Dr. Lakshman emphasises the importance of curation, ensuring that what makes it to the final programme is a diverse but solid line-up, anchoring "the festival firmly to the underlying core values that reflect the newspaper's ethic".

Beyond books

As always, *The Hindu* Lit Fest, 2024 will go beyond books, expanding to include conversations that turn the spotlight on some incredibly important and urgent issues – from sessions on the global shift to hypernationalism to a discussion on countering viral falsehoods; from a conversation on Sangam poetry to the journey of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO); and from a panel on understanding the history of idol worship to another on the Indian economy.

This year, focusing on both current affairs and larger societal shifts, programme director Rachana Singh Davidar and programme consultant Prasanna Ramaswamy have ensured that the panels offer conversation and food for thought on a wide and inclusive range of subjects, from politics and the economy, to food, sports, fashion, and stand-up comedy. There is something for everyone, and the line-up will feed your existing interests while also encouraging new ones.

The panellists, too, are experts, change-makers and leaders from a wide range of fields. Confirmed speakers for the 2024 edition include Ramachandra Guha, Tarun Tahiliani, T.M. Krishna, Perumal Murugan, Manu Chandra, Cyrus Broacha, Kanan Gill, Sreenivasan Jain, Shashi Tharoor, Amish Tripathi, Devdutt Pattanaik, Montek Singh Ahluwalia, William Dalrymple, Neerja Chowdhury and Anuja Chauhan.

Discussing the great diversity of brilliant speakers, Dr. Lakshman points out that "not all of them do the 'festival rounds', and [many of them] have come exclusively to us. For instance, S. Somanath, ISRO Chairman, will deliver a lecture on ISRO's spectacular recent achievements at this year's festival".

Month-long events

One need not wait till January-end to begin experiencing the festival. Starting from the second week of the month, Chennai will see a series of on-ground engagements that include a kind of sampler of the things to come – from a mobile library to curated walks, sessions and workshops on storytelling, quizzes and contests – all designed to lead up to the main event.

The quality and scale of a festival such as *The Hindu* Lit Fest is not without its challenges, and Dr. Lakshman says that finding support from sponsors is the biggest one. "But because of our very hard-working marketing team, who really understand what we aim to do, we are able to garner support," she says.

The 2024 edition has found its title partner in the Gsquare Group, in association with the NITTE Education Trust and Christ University.

FIITJEE is the festival's associate partner. Higginbothams will be the festival's Bookstore partner for this year.

As the festival grows, so does the audience. And as registrations keep increasing year on year, Dr. Lakshman says that this has a direct influence on the future of the festival itself which lies "firmly in the hands of our audience and the support they generate for the festival by showing up, attending sessions, asking questions and indeed by giving festivals like ours a great energy that shows how transformative literature, culture, ideas and conversations can be in a democratic society like ours".

A long-term goal, she says, is to see this "sharpest of literary festivals become bigger and brighter and be a promoter of the best kind of work that human creativity has on offer."

To find out more about *The Hindu* Lit Fest 2024, visit: https://newsth.live/Litfest

Manipur-to-Mumbai march, now called Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra, will spend more days in U.P.

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

Banking on a brand: Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge with party leader Rahul Gandhi at a meet on Thursday. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Banking on the "brand value" of the Bharat Jodo Yatra, the Congress on Thursday renamed its Manipur-to-Mumbai Nyay Yatra – scheduled to start on January 14 – Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra.

Of the 66 days that the yatra will be on road, the longest spell of 11 days will be in Uttar Pradesh where it will touch the Rae Bareli Lok Sabha constituency, represented by Sonia Gandhi, and Amethi, which former Congress president Rahul Gandhi lost in the 2019 Lok Sabha election.

The decision to rebrand the yatra was taken at a meeting chaired by Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge with the general secretaries and States in-charge, along with State unit presidents and Congress Legislature Party leaders. The yatra will be led by former Congress president Rahul Gandhi.

"All the members who attended the three-hour meeting today [Thursday] were of the unanimous view that the Bharat Jodo Yatra has become a brand in its own right; it is embedded in people's mind and should not lose its value," Mr. Ramesh said.

He said the 4,000-km Bharat Jodo Yatra from September 2022 to January 2023 proved to be a transformative moment in Indian political history. Just as its earlier version, the party is hoping that this one too will energise its cadres ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha election and unify the party organisation.

'INDIA allies invited'

The yatra, which will begin on January 14 from Imphal, will cross 110 districts in 15 States. It will touch 100 Lok Sabha constituencies, but the 15 States together account for 357 seats (of the total 545).

Briefing presspersons, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said all INDIA bloc allies will be invited to be part of the yatra that ends on March 20.

The yatra will enter Uttar Pradesh in Varanasi, and then go to Prayagraj, Amethi, Rae Bareli, Lucknow, Bareilly, Aligarh and Agra, covering a total distance of 1,074 km across 20 districts. The yatra will not cross Ayodhya, which has become the focal point of the BJP's election campaign, beginning with the *pran prathishta* (idol installation) ceremony of the Ram Temple on January 22.

On this day, the yatra will be in Assam.

After Uttar Pradesh, the longest spells are in Assam and Jharkhand – eight days each. The yatra will be in Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya and Rajasthan for a day each.

In Manipur, the yatra will cover 107 km over a day. The Congress sources said that while the party has the security clearance to begin the yatra from there for now, if the situation changes and it is withdrawn, they have not drafted a Plan B.

In Gujarat, which the first Bharat Jodo Yatra skipped, the *yatris* will be spending five days, crossing 445 km in seven districts.

In the original plan announced by the Congress, Arunachal Pradesh was not on the route, for which the party was heavily panned. Now, the yatra will be there for a day there covering 55 km.

The yatra will be undertaken in a hybrid mode, covering the larger distances by bus, with a foot march of 8 km to 10 km each day. It will have public meetings at regular intervals and a series of interactions. But unlike the previous edition, this one will not have committed *"Bharat yatris"*, who last time followed the yatra from Kanniyakumari to Srinagar for the entire span of the journey.

Though, like the last journey, the limited number of *yatris* who will be accompanying Mr. Gandhi will stay in containers fitted with beds and other amenities.

Work like we did in 2004, Kharge tells party leaders

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Invoking the success of the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance (UPA) in 2004, party president Mallikarjun Kharge told Congress office-bearers on Thursday that similar efforts would have to be made for the 2024 Lok Sabha election.

He was speaking at a three-hour meeting held to discuss the preparations for the Lok Sabha election.

Referring to former Congress president Sonia Gandhi's 25-year tenure at the helm, Mr. Kharge said, "In our Bangalore Congress session in March 2001, a resolution was passed to remove the NDA alliance from power. Work was done wholeheartedly in every State, and in 2004, under the leadership of Sonia*ji*, UPA defeated NDA and we remained in power for 10 consecutive years. Then our workers from every village and city stood up. Today the time has come to work with the same dedication and hard work."

Office-bearers meeting

The meeting was attended by general secretaries, States in-charge, State presidents and Congress Legislature Party leaders from across the country. Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi too was present at the meeting.

The Congress president accused the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of raising emotive issues to hide its failures during the 10 years in power at the Centre.

"We have to unite and give a befitting reply to the lies, deceit and wrongdoings of the BJP on grassroots issues in front of the people," Mr. Kharge added. He asked the party leaders to sink their differences, and not raise internal issues in the media and to work as a team.

BJP is planning to stop me from campaigning for LS poll: Kejriwal

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Thursday said that honesty was his biggest asset and through the Enforcement Directorate's (ED) repeated summons in the Delhi excise policy case, the BJP wants to defame him.

"Now BJP is not arresting corrupt people, but they want to use the ED and the CBI to breakaway leaders from Opposition parties to join them in BJP. Whatever is happening is dangerous for democracy and the country and we need to stop it," he said.

He asked why he was being summoned now, just two months before the Lok Sabha election, when the investigation has been going on for two years.

"Why was I not called earlier? The CBI had called me eight months ago. I had gone to the CBI and given all their answers. But now these people are calling me just two months before the Lok Sabha elections. So, BJP's aim is not to do any inquiry, but to call me on some pretext and arrest me so that I cannot campaign for the Lok Sabha elections."

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INBRIEF

Defence Ministry signs deals worth ₹802 crore for Army

The Defence Ministry on Thursday signed two contracts estimated at ₹802 crore to procure military equipment for the Army. They include 697 bogie open military (BOM) wagons at a cost of ₹473 crore with Jupiter Wagons Ltd. and 56 mechanical minefield marking equipment (MMME) Mark 2 at a cost of ₹329 crore with Bharat Earth Movers Ltd. under the Buy (Indian-IDDM) category. "The BOM Wagons and MMME will be produced with equipment and sub-system sourced from indigenous manufacturers," a Ministry statement said.

Appeal filed in SC against HC verdict on adolescent girls

The West Bengal government on Thursday told the Supreme Court that it has filed an appeal challenging a Calcutta High Court judgment, which advised adolescent girls to "control sexual urges" and young men to train themselves to respect women. The Bench of Justices A.S. Oka and Ujjal Bhuyan asked the registry to list the writ petition and Special Leave Petition filed by the State on January 12 after taking approval of the Chief Justice of India. PTI

Hizbul terrorist held in national capital: police

Alisha Dutta
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police arrested Hizbul Mujahideen member Javed Mattu in New Delhi on Thursday.

Mattu has been associated with multiple terror attacks in Jammu and Kashmir. He is wanted by security agencies for the past 13 years and carries a ₹10 lakh reward on his head. He was in the Delhi-NCR region allegedly to collect arms and ammunition, which were to be used for a series of terror activities in Jammu and Kashmir, said Special Commissioner of Police Special Cell H.G.S. Dhaliwal. "Mattu got caught in the radar of the Special Cell and central agencies as they had doubled the security in view of the upcoming Republic Day," he added.

Following an intelligence alert, a team led by ACP Pramod Singh Kushwah arrested Mattu with a 9 mm star pistol and six live cartridges from the Delhi Noida Direct (DND) flyway.

ED searches residence of Jharkhand CM Soren's aide

Agency says probe has revealed rampant illegal mining under way in Sahibganj district; digital devices, documents and records and ₹37 lakh in cash have been seized during the searches

Amit Bhelari
PATNA

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Thursday said it had conducted searches under provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) on 12 premises in Jharkhand, West Bengal, Rajasthan, and Bihar on Wednesday.

The premises include the residences of Abhishek Prasad 'Pintu', the press advisor to Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren; Ram Niwas Yadav, Deputy Commissioner of Sahibganj District; and Rajendra Dubey, Deputy Superintendent of Police of Sahibganj.

The ED said that the searches were conducted in relation to a case of illegal stone mining worth ₹1,000 crore in Jharkhand's Sahibganj district.

The agency initiated the investigation on the basis of an FIR registered in Sahibganj, under various sections of the Indian Penal Code, the Arms Act, and the JMMC Rules, against Bishnu Yadav, Pavitra Yadav, Pankaj Mishra, and others.

In the dock: An ED official arrives with currency counting machine at Abhishek Prasad's residence in Ranchi on Wednesday. ANI

The ED said its investigation revealed that illegal mining activities were being rampant in the Sahibganj area. In order to ascertain the extent of the operation, 20 joint inspections of illegal mining activities were carried out by ED officials along with Administrative, Forest, Mining, and Pollution Control officers of the State government.

"The joint inspection has confirmed the instance of huge illegal mining as well as denudation of land and forest area leading to other environmental hazards. During the joint inspection, the quantum of illegal mining of more than 23.26 crore cubic feet having an approximate market value of ₹1,250 crore has been detected and determined. The ED investigation also revealed that the kingpin of illegal mining activities was Pankaj Mishra who was arrested by the ED on July 19, 2022, and is currently in judicial custody," an ED official said.

During the search operations, various incriminating digital devices, documents/records and cash amounting to ₹36.99 lakh including ₹7.25 lakh were unearthed from the camp office of Mr. Yadav.

Additionally, 19 cartridges of 9 mm bore, two cartridges of .380 mm and five empty cases of .45 calibre pistol were also recovered from his residential premises.

During the searches, 30 *benami* bank accounts were also unearthed and the same have been frozen. The searches conducted on January 3 are in continuation of earlier ones. Further investigation is under progress in the case.

India conveys its shock at blasts at Iran memorial

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

India on Thursday expressed shock at the deadly bombing in Kerman city of Iran which killed 84 people and injured dozens of others.

In a statement, the newly appointed official spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs, Randhir Jaiswal, said: "We are shocked and saddened on the terrible bombings in Kerman city of Iran. At this difficult time, we express our solidarity with the government and people of Iran. Our thoughts and prayers are with the families of the victims and with the wounded."

The twin blasts in Kerman took place on Wednesday when a crowd was commemorating the fourth death anniversary of Iranian General Qassem Soleimani, who was killed in Iraq's capital Baghdad in a U.S. drone attack.

Iran has said the blasts were a "terrorist attack". At least 211 were injured in the incident.

Programme for students to begin soon at PM's school

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Education on Thursday launched 'Prerana', an experiential learning programme, which will operate from the vernacular school in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's birthplace Vadnagar, Gujarat where he had studied. A weekly residential programme, it will host 20 students (10 boys and 10 girls) from across the country on a rotational basis in the town.

The programme, which has the best-in-class technology where heritage meets innovation, caters to students from Classes 9 to 12, a Ministry spokesperson said. Students can register through the portal – prerana.education.gov.in. – wherein applicants can fill the requisite details to be a part of the programme.

The day-wise programme schedule will feature yoga, mindfulness, followed by and hands-on interesting learning activities.

Health Ministry seeks data on single women taking the ART route

Bindu Shajan Perappadan
NEW DELHI

To assess the functioning of the Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART) Act, 2021, the Union Health Ministry has sought data from all States and Union Territories on the total number of single women (those divorced and widows) and unmarried women who have successfully used the technology.

Fertility experts have welcomed the move, along with the inclusion of single women and unmarried women as a category.

The Health Ministry had also sought category-wise figures of the total number of couples and single women who used surrogacy successfully following the implementation of the Surrogacy Act, 2021.

The letter issued by the Health Ministry in December last year had sought the information on a priority basis, to be submitted by January 1.

Speaking of the Ministry's initiative, Shobhit Agarwal, CEO, Nova IVF Fertility, said that transparency was one of the core values of the sector, wherein complete information was shared with patients, and realistic expectations set to help them take well-informed decisions in their treatment and care.

Giving life: ART is offered as a treatment for infertility. FILE PHOTO

ART is offered as a treatment for infertility, and to prevent congenital abnormalities, etc. However, it has raised concerns over parameters that limit the number of available donors. India, like the rest of the world, is facing a dip in fertility rates, and increasing costs of ART cycles.

ISRO to perform crucial manoeuvre tomorrow to bind Aditya-L1 into L1 orbit

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

With the Aditya-L1 spacecraft expected to reach the Lagrangian Point (L1) on Saturday, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will attempt a crucial manoeuvre to bind the spacecraft to an orbit around L1.

Aditya-L1, the first Indian space-based observatory to study the sun, was launched on September 2, 2023 from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota. Subsequently, ISRO Telemetry Tracking and Command Network (ISTRAC) in Bengaluru carried out four earth-bound manoeuvres between September 3 and 15 last year.

L1 is about 1.5 million km from earth and the distance of L1 from the planet is approximately 1% of the earth-sun distance.

Around 4 p.m. on Saturday, ISRO scientists and engineers from the Mission Operations Complex of ISTRAC will perform the crucial manoeuvre which will bind Aditya-L1 to an orbit around L1.

From Earth: A satellite placed in halo orbit around L1 point has the advantage of viewing the Sun without any eclipse. S R RAGHUNATHAN

The propulsion system of the spacecraft comprises the 440 Newton Liquid Apogee Motor (LAM) engine plus eight 22 Newton thrusters and four 10 Newton thrusters which will be intermittently fired to perform the manoeuvre.

According to the agency, a satellite placed in the halo orbit around the L1 point has the major advantage of continuously viewing the sun without any occultation/eclipse. This will provide a greater advantage of observing the solar activities continuously.

Aditya-L1 carries seven payloads to observe the photosphere, chromosphere, and the outermost layers of the sun (the corona) using electromagnetic and particle detectors.

Using the special vantage point of L1, four payloads will directly view the Sun and the remaining three payloads will carry out in-situ studies of particles and fields at the L1.

Aditya-L1 has a mission life of five years.

New antibiotic could target drug-resistant bacterium: scientists

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Researchers have identified a new class of antibiotics with the potential to tackle a drug-resistant bacterium, *Acinetobacter baumannii*. Zosurabalpin, the antibiotic, was found to be effective against CRAB (carbapenem-resistant *Acinetobacter baumannii*)-induced pneumonia and sepsis in mouse models.

Writing in *Nature*, Zampaloni *et al* and Pahil *et al* reported the identification and analysis of the antibiotic zosurabalpin that can kill *Acinetobacter baumannii*, antibiotic-resistant strains of which are hard to treat in the clinic.

Precise work

Dr. Zampaloni and colleagues identified a tethered macrocyclic peptide (MCP) that selectively kills *A. baumannii*. The compound was further optimised for efficacy and tolerability, and the fine-tuning culminated in zosurabalpin, a drug candidate.

In an article, Morgan K. Gugger and Paul J. Hergenrother, Department of Chemistry, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, wrote that copious evidence provided by Zampaloni *et al* indicates that the antibiotic kills *A. baumannii* through a previously unknown mode of action. It inhibits a key process, transport of the molecule lipopolysaccharide (LPS), by inhibiting a complex of proteins. This complex was essential for transporting LPS to the bacterial surface to create the outer-membrane structure of Gram-negative bacteria. Zosurabalpin blocks LPS transport, and the abnormal build-up of LPS in the cell kills the bacterium.

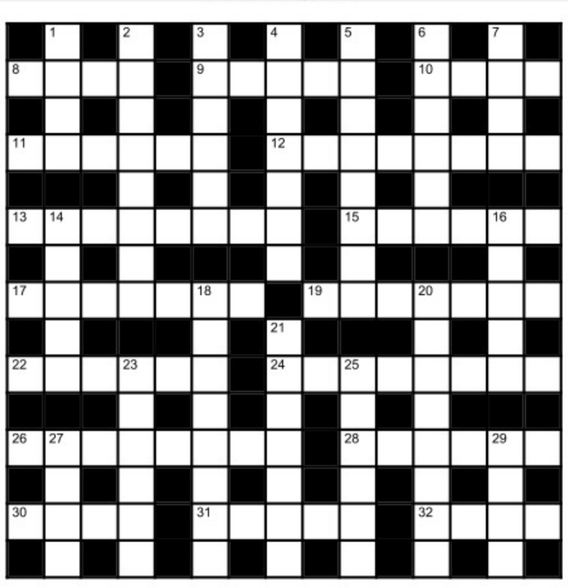
"It was effective against more than 100 CRAB clinical samples tested in the laboratory and it considerably reduced the levels of bacteria in mice with CRAB-induced pneumonia and prevented the death of mice with a CRAB-induced abnormal immune response called sepsis," the article said.

TH CROSSWORD + 14064

(set by Incognito)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

8 Island found inside Cristobal Island (4)
9 Gave money — around a pound — for cloth pattern (5)
10 Financial institution? It's next to the river! (4)
11 Dogs expelled from new rose garden that is closer (6)
12 Called some, I hear, on Monday accompanied by journalist (8)
13 Breathe in like corsair (8)
15 Barely living and insanely nuts about princess (6)
17 Country song about soldiers (7)
19 A leading movie actor has note for goddess (7)
22 Seance performer is average (6)
24 American name found in small road in Swiss city (8)
26 Crushed almond in sound instrument (8)
28 Basantar tank contains Scottish kilt material (6)
30 Florida silver standard (4)
31 Starting to tie and dye, covering small rough cloth (5)
32 Benjamin King has furry animal (4)

Down

1 Law-man starts to take evidence for appointment (4)
2 Precipitation inside plane starting to evaporate results in headache (8)
3 Satrap travels around Greek city state (6)
4 Forbid that lady with English spirit (7)
5 Initially, troop sergeant-major, following irregular soldiers scraps (8)
6 Sailor, by the way, is overseas (6)
7 A new direction for Charles' sister (4)
14 NCO sends out six-footer to get uniform material (5)
16 Took seat on Indian fabric (5)
18 Fire 1 millimetre round after time (8)
20 Arranges an old horse to go in front of male sheep (8)
21 Female students wrap 7 in warm cloth (7)
23 Colour used by Hindi governess (6)
25 Oneness, when concealing a hint of difference, can become messy (6)
27 Fit defective seat belts without tests (4)
29 Coin that may be returned without change (4)

SUDOKU

5	2	6		7				3
4							6	
					9	5		2
2	9				6			
		1		8		6		
			2				9	1
1		5	4					
	7							5
9				5		4	8	6

No.SS6029 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

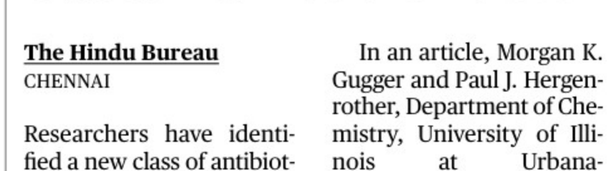
DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

Solution to previous puzzle

■	B	L	E	E	D	I	N	G	M	A	D	R	A	S
P	■	A	■	L	■	L	■	A	■	C	■	O	■	C
L	O	I	R	E	■	L	O	B	S	C	O	U	S	E
A	■	D	■	M	■	A	■	L	■	O	■	G	■	P
C	H	A	R	I	O	T	■	E	A	R	N	E	S	T
I	■	S	■	■	■	E	■	■	■	D	■	■	■	R
D	R	I	L	L	■	A	P	P	O	I	N	T	E	E
■	■	D	■	O	■	S	■	A	■	O	■	R	■	■
C	A	E	S	A	R	E	A	N	■	N	Y	A	L	A
A	■	■	■	T	■	■	■	T	■	■	■	U	■	S
T	R	A	C	H	E	A	■	I	S	T	H	M	U	S
C	■	N	■	S	■	D	■	H	■	H	■	A	■	U
H	O	T	P	O	T	A	T	O	■	I	N	T	E	R
U	■	R	■	M	■	P	■	S	■	E	■	I	■	E
P	R	E	S	E	N	T	P	E	R	F	E	C	T	■

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

4	6	3	9	2	8	1	7	5
1	8	7	6	4	5	2	9	3
5	2	9	3	7	1	6	8	4
7	4	2	8	5	9	3	6	1
8	1	6	7	3	4	5	2	9
9	3	5	1	6	2	8	4	7
6	5	8	4	1	7	9	3	2
3	7	1	2	9	6	4	5	8
2	9	4	5	8	3	7	1	6



FAITH

Recitation of the Ramayana

The Ramayana contains all the treasures, like various precious things found in an ocean. Sri Valmiki yearned to write a story about a pious personality. He asked sage Naradha who possessed 16 great virtues on the earth, and the sage listed out more than what Valmiki had asked, citing Sri Rama's virtuous qualities. Valmiki started writing by invoking the grace of Naradha, who blessed him with *Sankshepa Ramayanam*. Later, Valmiki developed it, expanding it into 24,000 slokas.

Vadakudi Sri Sundararama Dikshitar said in a discourse that the letters "Ra" and "Ma" are drawn from the sacred "Ashtakshara Mantra". Recitation or hearing the recitation of the Ramayana is like a person relishing sweet honey. Scriptures say that Goddess Ganga Devi cleanses the sins of those who take a holy dip in the river. Sri Adi Sankara says in Gangashtakam that if a person takes even a drop of the Ganga water, all his sins will be removed. But Ganga Devi is worried that she is laden with more and more sins of all the beings who drink or dip in the river and how can she neutralise those sins. It is said that Ganga Devi removes all her sins by listening to the recitation of Sri Ramayana verses (Moola Parayanam). Sage Agasthya says that wherever Sri Ramayana is read, Ganga Devi would be there to listen.

INBRIEF

Torrent Power pledges to invest ₹47,000 cr. in Gujarat

Torrent Power has inked four initial pacts with the Gujarat government to invest ₹47,350 crore in renewable energy, green hydrogen and electricity distribution. The MoUs were signed between Torrent Power and Gujarat Energy Development Agency in Gandhinagar. Through the four MoUs, Torrent Power has proposed total investments of ₹47,350 crore, it stated. The proposed investments are expected to contribute towards the State's development. PTI

CCI to further probe Minda's bid to merge with Pricol

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has found prima facie, the proposed combination of Minda and Pricol will likely result in "an appreciable adverse effect on competition for multiple reasons" and hence plans to inquire further into the matter, Pricol said in a filing. Pricol Ltd. said it would respond to the CCI in due course. In May 2023, Pricol filed preliminary objection against Minda Corp.'s application to the CCI to invest up to 24.5% of the equity of Pricol.

'Jio adds 31.6 lakh subscribers in Oct.; VIL loses 20.4 lakh'

India's largest telecom operator Reliance Jio continued its momentum adding 31.59 lakh mobile users while rival Bharti Airtel's subscriber gain came in at 3.52 lakh in October 2023, as per monthly subscriber data by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India. Vodafone Idea yielded further ground on the subscriber front, as it lost 20.44 lakh wireless users. Overall, the industry-wide 'active' subscriber base dipped by almost 14 lakh to 104.5 crore, TRAI data showed.

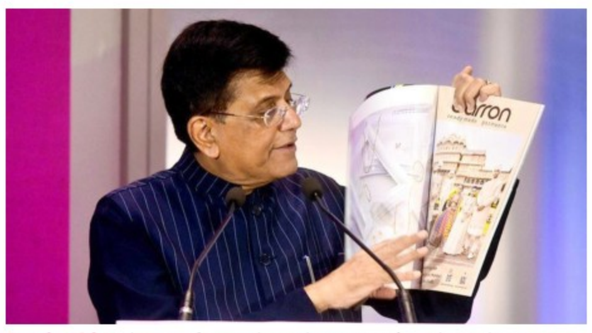
'Centre keen to expand ECGC cover to jewellery exporters'

Credit cover now provided to banks for loans given to exporters may be expanded to directly include individual exporters; Piyush Goyal adds India can be a wedding destination for the world

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

Union minister for Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal on Thursday said that the Centre was keen to expand the ECGC (Export Credit Guarantee Corporation) cover, now provided to banks towards the credit extended to exporters, to even individual exporters of gems and jewellery.

"We have now started giving ECGC cover for the whole turnover that the gem and jewellery industry must be having. They are right now given to the banks who are lending money to you. I am keen to expand that," the minister told a gathering of gem and jewellery exporters.



Betting big: The way forward is to become a $100 bn industry in exports, Piyush Goyal tells gem and jewellery exporters. ANI

The minister suggested the formation of a committee having representation from ECGC, the government, and the Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC) that can frame a mechanism for exporters to avail the credit cover. It can happen if industry would play a pro-active role and associations get involved, he added.

"If we work in collaboration, we can make this industry expand and grow. The way forward is to become $100 billion industry in exports," he added.

The minister also said the combination of fashion and jewellery can make India a preferred wedding destination for the world.

U.S. interest rates likely to stay high 'for some time': Fed minutes

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

U.S. Federal Reserve officials expect interest rates will need to remain high "for some time" to tackle stubborn inflation, according to minutes of the most recent rate decision published on Wednesday.

The Fed announced last month that it would continue to hold interest rates at a 22-year high, and penciled in up to three rate cuts in 2024, sending U.S. stock markets surging to new records.

Since then, Fed officials have looked to dampen the buoyant market expectations that cuts were imminent, stressing that inflation remains stuck above the central bank's long-run target of 2%.

'Remain restrictive'

In December, the Fed's rate-setting committee "reaffirmed that it would be appropriate for policy to remain at a restrictive stance for some time until inflation was clearly moving down sustainably" towards target, according to minutes of the meeting published Wednesday.

The minutes did not delve into details of a discussion Fed Chair Jerome Powell alluded to in last month's press conference, about when it would be apt to start cutting rates.

Since peaking in 2022, the Fed's favored inflation gauge has fallen sharply, reaching an annual rate of 2.6% in November.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	THURSDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	71,848	0.69
US Dollar	83.24	0.07
Gold	63,550	-----
Brent oil	77.68	-0.49

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2998.30	-4.70
Adani Ports	1123.20	28.95
Apollo Hosp	5762.20	-6.10
Asian Paints	3379.95	6.35
Axis Bank	1123.40	24.80
Bajaj Auto	6922.15	-64.35
Bajaj Finserv	1701.95	24.30
Bajaj Finance	7705.55	320.75
Bharti Airtel	1047.90	12.70
BPCL	452.65	-8.40
Britannia Ind	5361.30	107.50
Cipla	1296.65	-3.50
Coal India	384.75	0.20
Divis Lab	4042.15	11.55
Dr Reddys Lab	5842.20	-89.70
Eicher Motors	3861.00	-26.60
Grasim Ind	2070.20	-2.00
HCL Tech	1419.95	-17.80
HDFC Bank	1690.85	17.95
HDFC Life	647.95	10.75
Hero MotoCorp	3946.95	-42.90
Hindalco	590.50	-2.55
Hind Unilever	2592.55	-14.00
ICICI Bank	987.15	3.10
IndusInd Bank	1648.55	47.40
Infosys	1512.70	22.70
ITC	476.40	-0.85
JSW Steel	837.10	-0.55
Kotak Bank	1863.60	-2.30
L&T	3458.70	18.35
LTIMindtree Ltd.	5866.40	-94.65
M&M	1641.70	-13.55
Maruti Suzuki	10015.30	-62.35
NestleIndia	27116.40	481.20
NTPC	317.10	10.90
ONGC	214.65	6.40
PowerGrid Corp	241.45	4.40
Reliance Ind	2596.65	13.35
SBI Life	1431.60	8.90
State Bank	642.75	-0.70
Sun Pharma	1312.95	14.35
TataConsumerProduct	1125.55	40.60
Tata Motors	795.75	14.30
Tata Steel	134.25	-1.10
TCS	3666.80	-24.95
Tech Mahindra	1247.50	3.30
Titan	3719.70	26.65
UltraTech Cement	10014.80	-96.75
UPL	587.65	0.80
Wipro	452.40	-3.50

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on January 04

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	83.03	83.35
Euro	91.03	91.38
British Pound	105.64	106.06
Japanese Yen (100)	57.69	57.91
Chinese Yuan	11.62	11.66
Swiss Franc	97.75	98.14
Singapore Dollar	62.55	62.80
Canadian Dollar	62.33	62.58
Malaysian Ringitt	17.90	17.98
Australian Dollar	55.98	56.20

Source:Indian Bank

PSU dividends said to likely exceed FY goal

Reuters
NEW DELHI

The government will likely exceed its FY24 target for dividends from state-run companies by at least ₹12,000 crore, partly offsetting an expected shortfall from share sales, a government source aware of the matter said on Thursday.

The receipts could range from ₹55,000 crore-₹60,000 crore, the source said, potentially topping not only the government's target of ₹43,000 crore for FY24 fiscal, but also the

₹59,500 crore it collected in dividends last fiscal.

So far this fiscal, India received ₹43,800 crore in dividends from PSUs, government data reveal. It may not be able to mop up even ₹30,000 crore through stake sales this fiscal, the source added.

Govt. restricts import of screws, electricals

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Centre scraps the 'free' imports status for screws that have a CIF value of less than ₹129/kilogram

In a bid to curb imports, the Commerce and Industry Ministry, over the course of this week, has issued a Quality Control Order for a slew of electrical accessories and put the imports of screws in the prohibited category from its current 'free' status.

The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) mandated Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) certification for all products included under an Electric Accessories (Quality Control) Order, 2023 notified on January 1.

The Centre also scrapped the 'free' imports status for screws of various kinds that have a CIF value of less than ₹129 per kilogram. The CIF value refers to the landed cost of imported goods, including insurance and freight.

Kotak Life eyes 10% growth in FY24 individual premium

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Kotak Mahindra Life Insurance Co. Ltd. (Kotak Life) expects to clock more than 10% growth in individual premium income for FY24 on the back of new products and markets, according to a company official.

The insurer's overall premium income grew 22% while individual premium climbed 37% from the year-earlier period in FY23 on better awareness about life-insurance products in the post-pandemic period and new products.

However, in the first half of FY24, it posted 10-11% growth in individual premium and just single-digit expansion in terms of over-

Vivek Prakash and actuary R. Jayaraman unveil unit linked insurance plan in Chennai.

all premium.

"There was a slowdown, not only for us but for the entire industry," Vivek Prakash, Joint President and Head - Agency Business, said during an interaction. "It was due to levy of tax on insurance plans issued on or after after April 1, 2023," he added.

"There has been a change in individual approach after the introduction of new provisions in the Union Budget. This we are trying to compensate by acquiring new customers, entering new markets, opening offices and recruiting new advisors. Tamil Nadu is a strong market for us," Mr. Prakash said.

According to him, 20% of business comes from the existing customers.

On Thursday, Mr. Prakash introduced 'Term with Unit Linked Insurance Plan' (TULIP), a unit-linked term insurance plan that offers life cover of up to 100 times the annual premium. The policy also provides additional cover against critical illness and accidental death.

'India's heavy digital footprint makes it attractive to cybercrooks'

Mini Tejaswi
BENGALURU

With a population of over 1.4 billion and a rapidly expanding economy, India's digital footprint has made it an alluring target for cybercriminals seeking to exploit vulnerabilities, warned a group of cybersecurity providers.

Data breaches would skyrocket in 2024, there would be continued acceleration in ransomware activities in addition to a surge in identity-based attacks resulting from increasing cloud adoption, and deepfakes would also pose a looming threat to the country's cybersecurity this year, they cautioned.

Chinks in armour: Huge population and fast-expanding economy makes India vulnerable to such incidents. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

Rohan Vaidya, regional director, India and SAARC, CyberArk said, "In 2024, we expect a sharp uptick in data breaches as the digital landscape expands, primarily because of the scale and diversity of attacks, which have impacted almost every sector."

As organisations migrate their data, applications, and workloads to the cloud, the attack surface widens, providing a broader canvas for threat actors to exploit.

McAfee Corp., a player in online protection, forecast that in 2024 the global excitement around the Olympic Games will become a breeding ground for scams. Cyber-scammers will exploit consumer enthusiasm around the event, targeting fans who are eager to buy tickets, book travel, access hot content, and participate in giveaways.

"As AI continues to lower the barrier to cybercrime and ushers in a new era of AI-powered cyberthreats, scams will become more sophisticated and more difficult to distinguish from legitimate messages and sites," said Steve Grobman, Chief Technology Officer, McAfee.

Consortium to import coking coal said to be on the cards

Reuters
NEW DELHI

India plans to form a consortium of state-owned companies to facilitate coking coal imports to help domestic steel companies tide over shortages, two government sources said.

Stung by lower supplies and higher prices of coking coal, leading Indian steel companies have petitioned the government to help boost supplies of the key steel-making raw material.

Steel mills have struggled with volatile supplies of Australian coking coal, which normally accounts for more than half of India's annual imports.

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Tender No.	Material Description	Due Date
232443 000024	Design, Manufacture, Supply of two nos. of Fully Automatic Exercise Notebook Conversion Machine and its Auxillaries, Spares and Supervision of Erection, Start-up & Commissioning for TNPL Mayanur Plant	10.01.24
232413 006297	Procurement of Caustic Soda Lye for Unit-I and Unit-II	18.01.24
232413 006294	Procurement of Optical Brightening Agent for PM #1, 2 & 3 a) Wet End Liquid OBA b) Surface Liquid OBA	19.01.24
232423 003859	OBA (Slurry / Liquid) for Coating - VAP for TNPL Unit-II	19.01.24
232423 003918	Procurement of Clay No-1 (Spray Dried) for Board Machine of Unit-II	19.01.24
Email	232443000024 - pmd8@tnpl.co.in 232413006297; 6294 - purchase.rawmatl@tnpl.co.in 232423003859 - purchaserm.u2@tnpl.co.in 232423003918 - purchaseimp.u2@tnpl.co.in	

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WBSEDCL invites Pre-Qualification (PQ) for the work of 'Execution and Completion of Electro-mechanical Equipment (Generating Equipment) (Package 3A) covering Hydraulic Pump-Turbine, Generator-Motor, EOT Crane, Protection and Control System, Medium and Low voltage Metal enclosed Switchgear, Utility works, Plant Communication Equipment and Miscellaneous Equipment and all other incidental works for implementation of Turga Pumped Storage Project (I) (4X250 MW) at Ajodhya Hills, Block– Baghmundi, Dist.– Purulia, West Bengal, India'.
For details, visit https://wbtenders.gov.in & www.wbsedcl.in
ICA- T161(3)/2024

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice
Tender No : 171/2023-24/KWA/PHC/D5/TVM, AMRUT-Rehabilitation of the existing PSC pipe transmission main from Peroorkkada to Manvila with MS/DI pipes and allied works, EMD : Rs. 5,00,000/-, Tender fee : Rs. 19,518/-, Last Date for submitting Tender : 24-01-2024 03:00:pm, Phone : 0471-2322303
Website : www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in
Superintending Engineer,
KWA-JB-GL-6-1978-2023-24 PH Circle, Thiruvananthapuram

Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar Law University
"RUSA Bhawan", Shiksha Sankul, J.L.N. Marg, Jaipur (Rajasthan)-302015
website: www.alujaipur.ac.in, E-mail: vcsearch.alu@gmail.com
No. :- ALU/Reg/2024/5275 Date :- 01/01/2024
Adv No. 01/2024
Advertisement for the post of Vice-Chancellor Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar Law University, Jaipur
On behalf of the Chairman, Search Committee, applications/ nominations are invited for the post of Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar Law University, Jaipur (Rajasthan). The candidates are required to apply, who have minimum 10 years' experience as Professor (Law), in the prescribed application format by post and email to vcsearch.alu@gmail.com so as to reach the Chairman, Search Committee C/o Officer-on-Special-Duty, Higher Education, Governor's Secretariat, Raj Bhawan, Jaipur-302006 (Rajasthan) on 05th February, 2024. Details of advertisement and prescribed application format (Standard Format for CV) should be downloaded from the University website www.alujaipur.ac.in or from website of Raj Bhawan www.rajbhawan.rajasthan.gov.in.
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An ISO-9001:2015 & 14001:2015 Company
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Sandal City: P.B. No. 5531, Bengaluru-Pune Highway, Bengaluru - 560 055.
Ph: 080-22164879, 22164886, Website: www.mysoresandal.org e-mail: ksdl.dgmmtls@gmail.com
Date: 04.01.2024
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
Tenders are invited by KS&DL in two cover system through e-procurement portal 2.0 (Website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) with respect to supply of following Goods/Services/Works.

Sl. No.	Tender Number	Tender Name	Tender Quantity	Published date	Last Date of Submission
1	KSDL/2023-24/ IND0309	Procurement of DFA Soap Noodles	32700 MT	30-12-2023	30-01-2024
2	KSDL/2023-24/ IND0310	Procurement of Sandalwood oil	5000 Kgs	02-01-2024	03-02-2024

For any further queries/clarifications please contact the undersigned.
Sd/-
Asst. General Manager (Materials)

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
49, East Wing , 4th & 5th Floor, Khanija Bhavan, Race Course Road, Bengaluru – 560 001. Phone No. 080-22265383. Website: www.kiadb.in
No. IADB/ENGG/ETND-PMC-06/456/2023-24 Date:03.01.2024
SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER FOR PROVIDING PROJECT MANAGEMENT CONSULTANCY SERVICES
(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)
KIADB is inviting tender under Quality Based Consultancy System (QCBS) as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible Consulting Firms under two cover system for the mentioned work : Project Management Consultancy Services for the work of **Providing Water Supply Scheme at Devanahalli General Industrial Area of Devanahalli & Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District. (4th Call).**
Last date for submission of bids is: **12.01.2024 upto 04:00 pm**
Applicants may download bidding documents from Karnataka Public Procurement Porta **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**
Sd/-
Chief Engineer - 1
DIPR/CP/JA/2861/2023-24

UNITED STATES

Imam dead after being shot outside New Jersey mosque

REUTERS

An imam who was shot on Wednesday outside a mosque in New Jersey has died, the U.S. State's Attorney-General, Matt Platkin, said, adding that the killing did not initially appear to be driven by "bias" or domestic terrorism. Hassan Sharif was shot multiple times near a mosque before being taken to hospital where he died. AFP

NEW YORK

Harvard president says she was ousted by 'lies, personal insults'

AFP

Harvard University's former president, Claudine Gay, said following her resignation on Wednesday that she made mistakes but insisted she was the target of a sustained campaign of lies and personal insults. "Those who had relentlessly campaigned to oust me since the fall often trafficked in lies and ad hominem insults." AFP

MYANMAR

10,000 prisoners pardoned on Myanmar's Independence Day

AP

Myanmar's military government on Thursday pardoned nearly 10,000 prisoners to mark the 76th anniversary of gaining independence from Britain. The head of Myanmar's military council, Senior Gen. Min Aung Hlaing, pardoned 9,652 prisoners to mark the holiday, state-run MRTV television reported. AP

UNITED STATES

Republicans push impeachment of Joe Biden's immigration chief

AFP

The U.S. Republicans announced impeachment proceedings on Wednesday against Joe Biden's Homeland Security Secretary, Alejandro Mayorka, over the worsening border crisis, as they seek to cement immigration as a major issue in November's presidential election. AFP

4 Hezbollah fighters killed in south Lebanon

Agence France-Presse
BEIRUT

Four Hezbollah fighters were killed overnight in southern Lebanon, the Iran-backed movement announced on Thursday, in what Lebanese state media said were Israeli strikes on the border town of Naqura.

The deaths, which according to a source close to the militant group include a local Hezbollah leader, follow a strike on Beirut this week that killed a senior Hamas leader, raising regional tensions as war rages in Gaza.

Hezbollah said in a statement the fighters had been killed "on the road to Jerusalem"– a phrase it has been using to announce deaths of its members due to Israeli fire.

Deadly strikes hit Gaza as tensions rise in West Asia

Antony Blinken is due to head to the region; Hezbollah chief warns Israel against all-out conflict; if the enemy thinks of waging a war on Lebanon, 'we will fight without restraint and rules', he says

Agence France-Presse
GAZA STRIP

Israeli bombing killed dozens of people overnight in Gaza, the Health Ministry of the Hamas-run Palestinian territory said on Thursday, as regional tensions have surged over the almost three-months-old war.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken was due to head to the West Asia , a U.S. official said on condition of anonymity, the top diplomat's fourth trip to the region since the Hamas attack of October 7 .

Tensions have also surged with Israel's northern neighbour Lebanon, where a strike in Beirut on Tuesday, widely assumed to have been carried out by Israel, killed Hamas deputy leader Saleh al-Aruri

Hezbollah has vowed that the killing of Aruri and six other Hamas operatives on its home turf will not go unpunished, labelling it "a serious assault on Lebanon... and a dangerous development". Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah warned Israel against all-out conflict, after Israeli army chief Herzi Halevi, in a visit to the Lebanese border, said troops were "in very high readiness".

Crushing down: Israeli Army vehicles move along a road in the Gaza Strip near a position along the border with southern Israel. AFP

Nasrallah said that "for now, we are fighting on the front line following meticulous calculations" but warned that, "if the enemy thinks of waging a war on Lebanon, we will fight without restraint, without rules, without limits and without restrictions".

Mossad chief David Barnea warned on Wednesday that the Israeli spy agency "is committed to settling the score with the murderers" who carried out the Hamas attack.

'U.S. strike kills commander', says pro-Iran Hashed force

Agence France-Presse
BAGHDAD

A "U.S. strike" in Baghdad on Thursday killed a military commander of the Hashed al-Shaabi, an ex-paramilitary faction of the grouping said, with an Iraqi security official reporting two deaths in a drone attack.

The Iraqi government, supported by pro-Tehran factions, decried an "aggression". It accused a U.S.-led international coalition but stopped short of pinning the blame on Washington, as regional tensions soar amid the Israel-Hamas war.

"A drone targeted the logistical support headquarters of Hashed al-Shaabi," mainly pro-Iranian former paramilitary units integrated into the Iraqi armed forces, said the security official. The strike killed "two members and wounded seven others", said the official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Members of Iraq's Hashed al-Shaabi in front of the headquarters in Baghdad. AFP

A Hashed source, also asking not to be named, confirmed the death toll and charged that the United States was behind the attack.

Harakat al-Nujaba, one of the Hashed's factions, said in a statement that "the deputy commander of operations for Baghdad, Mushtaq Talib al-Saidi", had been "martyred in a U.S. strike". It came amid heightened regional tensions since war broke out between the U.S. ally Israel and Iran-backed Hamas militants in the Gaza Strip, triggered by the Palestinian group's deadly October 7 attack.

There was no immediate comment from U.S. officials, whose forces in Iraq and neighbouring Syria have faced a surge in attacks since the start of the Gaza war.

Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani's office accused the US-led anti-jihadist coalition of the strike, labelling it "a blatant aggression" as well as "a dangerous escalation and assault".

Beijing condemns armed conflict on Myanmar border

Agence France-Presse
BEIJING

Beijing on Thursday voiced "strong dissatisfaction" that fighting in neighbouring Myanmar had caused Chinese casualties and said it would take "all necessary measures" to protect its citizens, following reports an artillery shell had exploded across the border.

Armed conflict has raged in Myanmar's northern Shan state since October, when an alliance of ethnic minority groups launched an offensive against the military junta.

Chinese media reported that an artillery shell from Myanmar had fallen across the border

Several Chinese media outlets reported on Wednesday that an artillery shell from Myanmar had fallen across the border in the town of Nansan in China's Yunnan province, where it exploded and caused injuries to multiple people.

Asked about the reports at a regular press briefing on Thursday, Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin said China "expresses strong dissatisfaction that the armed conflict has caused Chinese casualties", adding that Beijing had "made solemn representations to the relevant parties".

"China once again demands that all parties in the northern Myanmar conflict immediately cease hostilities and take practical measures to prevent further pernicious incidents that endanger peace and tranquillity on the border," Wang said.

China, U.S. hold rival drills in disputed South China Sea

Agence France-Presse
BEIJING

China showcased on Thursday fighter jets firing missiles in the South China Sea, as it held rival military exercises with the United States in the hotly contested waters.

The drills follow tense standoffs between Beijing and Manila in disputed reefs that saw vessels from the two countries collide and Chinese ships blast water cannon at Philippine boats.

China last month voiced growing frustration and anger at the Philippines' unexpectedly bold tactics, warning its neighbour to exercise "caution".

Philippine vessels in the South China Sea on Wedenesday. AFP

And footage shared by state broadcaster CCTV and the Chinese military on Thursday showed what they called "live fire drills" taking place over the sea.

One video, shared by the Chinese military's Southern Theatre Command, showed jets taking off and firing missiles that then struck targets.

Neither state media nor the military said when the footage was taken.

But its release came a day after China announced a deployment of its navy and air force in the South China Sea on Wednesday and Thursday.

Rahman condemns Bangladesh election

Agence France-Presse
LONDON

Bangladesh's election on Sunday will be a "sham" designed to cement Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's rule, exiled opposition leader Tarique Rahman said in an exclusive interview defending his party's boycott.

Rahman is heir to one of the country's two main political dynasties and has helmed its largest opposition party since the 2018 jailing of his mother, two-time premier Khaleda Zia. Six years ago he was convicted in absentia of masterminding a deadly grenade attack on a campaign rally for Hasina – a charge he insists is fabricated – and sentenced to life imprisonment.

In his first interview with a major international media outlet for several years, Rahman, 56, said it would be inappropriate to have his party participate in a vote with a "predetermined" outcome.

"Bangladesh is approaching another sham election," he told said by email from London, where he has lived since 2008.

Sport

Warner out for 34 to 'a ripper' in farewell Test as rain thwarts Pakistan

PAKISTAN IN AUS.

Agence France-Presse
SYDNEY

Pakistan captured the key wickets of Australia openers David Warner and Usman Khawaja before rain washed out the second day's play in the third Test on Thursday.

Marnus Labuschagne was on 23 and Steve Smith six in their team's 116 for two before play was ended by bad light and rain before Tea.

The hosts trailed by 197 runs on a day where Warner was denied a crack at a cherished century in his 112th and final Test match.

Warner was dismissed for 34 and looked annoyed as he left the to a standing ovation from his home crowd.

Gone! Warner was beaten by the extra bounce and turn out of the rough by off-spinner Salman. AP

The 37-year-old opener, known in cricket as 'the Bull', was beaten by the extra bounce and turn out of the rough by offspinner Agha Salman to edge off to a Babar Azam at slip.

"I always love batting with Davey (Warner), and it's nice to see him leave on a high," said his long-time friend and opening partner Khawaja. "He just got a ripper of a ball."

Warner, who still has a potential second innings to bat in his last Test, has now scored 8,729 Test runs since his 2011 debut at an average of 44.53 with 26 centuries.

Khawaja, who averages 130 in Tests at the SCG, fell to a gloved catch down the leg-side off Jamal for 47, that was detected on review after a patient 143 balls at the crease.

Australia still has a strong batting line-up to come with Smith averaging 72 in 11 Tests at the famous SCG and Labuschagne 76 at the ground.

The scores: Pakistan 313 in 77.1 overs vs. Australia 116/2 in 47 overs (David Warner 34, Usman Khawaja 47).

Garcia guides France into the last four

Agence France-Presse
SYDNEY

Caroline Garcia guided France into a United Cup semifinal against Iga Swiatek's Poland on Thursday, winning a tough singles rubber and backing up in the mixed doubles to send Norway packing.

After she came through a tough battle against Malene Helgo 6-2, 6-7(6), 7-6 (7), Casper Ruud swept past Adrian Mannarino 6-1, 6-4 to level the tie in Sydney.

But Garcia returned to partner Edouard Roger-Vasselin in the deciding mixed doubles, battling to a thrilling 7-5, 6-4 win over Ruud and Ulrikke Eikeri to stay in the mixed teams tournament.

It's Jamari vs. Tehani in the Bangalore Oaks

RACING

BENGALURU: Jamari and Tehani may fight out the finish of the Bookmakers' Association Bangalore Oaks (2,400m), the chief event of the races to be held here on Friday (Jan 5). There will be no false rails.

1 ALTENBURG PLATE (1,400m), maiden 3-y-o only, (Terms), 1-30 p.m.: 1. Bharat (3) Suraj 56, 2. El Asesino (6) Trevor 56, 3. Golden Legend (1) G. Vivek 56, 4. Mescalito (4) Neeraj 56, 5. Crime Of Passion (2) Rayan 54.5 and 6. Kamet (5) Antony 54.5.

1. EL ASESINO, 2. BHARAT

2 SARDAR SAROVAR PLATE (DIV. II), (1,100m), rated 20 to 45, 2-05: 1. Roman Spirit (3) Trevor 60, 2. Slice Of Heaven (6) Inayat 56.5, 3. Fire Within (5) Vivek 54, 4. Honey Cake (8) Vinod Shinde 53, 5. Cristaldo (10) S. Shareef 52.5, 6. Eco Friendly (7) A. Ramu 51.5, 7. Master Of Courage (4) P. Siddaraju 51.5, 8. Tigerking (1) Rayan 51.5, 9. Quevega (2) M. Rajesh K 51 and 10. Air Blast (9) Shreyas S 50.5.

1. ROMAN SPIRIT,
2. MASTER OF COURAGE,
3. HONEY CAKE

3 GULBARGA STAKES (1,600m), rated 20 to 45, 2-40: 1. The Grey Geranium (4) Vivek 62.5, 2. August (9) S. John 62, 3. Victoria Doresaani (8) Suraj 61.5, 4. Serai (6) I. Chisty 60, 5. Norwegian Wood (5) Antony 59, 6. Treasure Chest (1) Ram Nandan 56.5, 7. My Vision (2) Arvind K 54.5, 8. Nevada Gold (7) G. Vivek 53.5 and 9. Tankinika (3) Salman K 53.5.

1. VICTORIA DORESAANI,
2. AUGUST,
3. NORWEGIAN WOOD

4 HEMAVATI PLATE (2,000m), rated 60 to 85, 3-15: 1. Kalamitsi (4) S. John 60, 2. Splendido (2) Antony 58, 3. Top Dancer (1) G. Vivek 58, 4. Galahad (3) Trevor 56.5 and 5. Pink Jasmine (5) Shreyas S 55.

1. GALAHAD,
2. SPLENDIDO

5 MANJRI HORSE BREEDERS' FARM NEW YEAR CUP (1,400m), 4-y-o & over, (Terms), 3-50: 1. Imperial Blue (1) Antony 60, 2. Siege Courageous (7) G. Vivek 59.5, 3. De Villiers (6) Trevor 58.5, 4. Dun IT Again (4) P. Surya 58.5, 5. Star Glory (8) Vinod Shinde 58.5, 6. Polished Girl (9) Suraj 58, 7. Amreli (3) Arvind K 57, 8. Isnt She Beautiful (2) Neerej 57 and 9. Auspicious Queen (5) I. Chisty 53.5.

1. IMPERIAL BLUE,
2. POLISHED GIRL,
3. ISNT SHE BEAUTIFUL

6 BOOKMAKERS' ASSOCIATION BANGALORE OAKS (2,400m), 4-y-o Fillies (Terms), 4-25: 1. Fast Pace (3) P.S. Chouhan 57, 2. Jamari (4) Trevor 57, 3. Super Marvella (1) Antony 57, 4. Tehani (5) Suraj 57 and 5. Wonder Woman (2) Shreyas S 57.

1. JAMARI,
2. TEHANI

7 SARDAR SAROVAR PLATE (DIV. I), (1,100m), rated 20 to 45, 5-00: 1. Star Concept (7) Suraj 61, 2. Rembrandt (9) M. Chandrashekar 60.5, 3. Divo (3) I. Chisty 60, 4. Fast Response (8) Ram Nandan 60, 5. Lex Luthor (10) Inayat 59, 6. Sunway Lagoon (4) Afsar Khan 59, 7. One Omega Man (1) Salman K 56, 8. Royal Mysore (2) Antony 55.5, 9. Croissantino (5) B. Nayak 55 and 10. My Wish (6) Vivek 55.

1. ROYAL MYSORE,
2. FAST RESPONSE,
3. STAR CONCEPT

Day's best: GALAHAD
Double: ROMAN SPIRIT – IMPERIAL BLUE

Jkt: 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7; Tr (i): 2, 3 and 4; (ii): 5, 6 and 7.

QUICK FINISH

Test match ends inside two days for a 25th time, a third for India

PTI

India's win on the second day was the 25th instance in Test history, dating back to 1882, when a game ended inside two days. It was also the third time India was involved in a two-day Test, the other two being the matches against Afghanistan (Bengaluru, 2018) and England (Ahmedabad, 2021).

SEVENTH-TIME LUCKY

India's long wait ends as it emerges victorious in a Test at Cape Town

REUTERS

India became the first Asian country to win a Test at Newlands, Cape Town. It was also the team's first success at the venue in seven attempts. The victory was India's fifth on South Africa soil after Johannesburg (won by 123 runs, 2006), Durban (87 runs, 2010), Johannesburg (63 runs, 2018) and Centurion (113 runs, 2021).

PERFECT SCORE

Indian speedsters claim all 20 wickets for a third time

REUTERS

Indian seamers bagged all 20 wickets in a Test for the third time. The first was in 2018 in Johannesburg against South Africa (Bumrah 7, Shami 6, Bhuvneshwar 4, Ishant 3) while the second was against England at Nottingham in 2021 (Bumrah 9, Shami 4, Siraj 3, Shardul 4). In Cape Town 2024, it was Bumrah 8, Siraj 7, Mukesh 4, Prasidh 1.

RICH HARVEST

Bumrah continues to rock at Newlands, takes tally to 18

PTI

Jasprit Bumrah, with 18 wickets, moved to the second spot among visiting bowlers with most scalps in Tests at Newlands. Colin Blythe of England tops the list with 25. Bumrah, during his six-wicket haul in the Proteas' second innings, joined Javagal Srinath for most five-fors (three each) by Indian bowlers in Tests in South Africa.

Fiery Bumrah helps Team India break a Cape Town hoodoo

The pacer's six-for sets up the visitors' seven-wicket victory which also turns out to be the shortest in Test history; Rohit's men win in 642 balls, bettering Australia's 1932 record of 656 balls in Melbourne against the Proteas; teams share the series

Even-stevens: The South African and Indian teams pose with the trophy after an absorbing series which ended in a 1-1 draw. PTI

INDIA IN SOUTH AFRICA

P.K. Ajith Kumar
CAPE TOWN

The final frontier will remain the final frontier for some more time, but India's cricketers will head back home, their heads held high.

They expectedly wrapped up the second Test with plenty of time to spare on Thursday to square the two-Test series 1-1. Aiden Markram scored a stunning hundred (106, 103b, 17x4, 2x6) on an incredibly challenging track where nobody else touched 50, but that could only delay the inevitable.

India's seven-wicket victory came in the second session on the second day. It was the team's first-ever Test victory at the Newlands Cricket Ground.

It also proved the shortest Test win in history. India won in 642 balls, beating the 1932 record of 656 balls in Melbourne (South Africa was at the receiving end then, too).

This Test match has, of course, been as much a delight for statisticians as it has been a nightmare for batters. But for one man, this was an occasion to show his exceptional talent.

Markram was brilliant. He probably played the innings of his life.

But the visitors needed only 79 to win. The South Africans had resumed at 62 for three, trailing by 36. They would have been hopeful of setting a reasonable target, but Jasprit Bumrah would not let them do it.

The Indian spearhead may have played a supporting role in the first innings, but he wasn't going to let this historical Test finish without making a significant contribution on his own. He broke through in the very first over of the day, getting rid of David Bedingham, whose attempt to drive ended in the gloves of K.L. Rahul behind the stumps.

After having Kyle Verreynne caught by his new-ball partner Mohammed Siraj at mid-on, he brought off a fine catch off his own bowling to send Marco Jansen back. Bumrah, whose length and angles proved too much for the South African batters, finished with six for 61.

All this while, it had looked as if Markram was batting on a wicket different from all the others, maybe with the exception of the Indian master Virat Kohli, who stood tall among India's ruins on the opening day.

And Kohli knows how skilful, focused and determined a batter has to be to succeed on a wicket like this, against a quality attack. So when Markram got to his hundred, Kohli congratulated him.

Markram would have appreciated that. And the goodly crowd that turned up, probably in hope of a miracle, was treated to some exquisite batting by the elegant opener.

Markram played some great shots, most of them along the ground, with perfect timing. He also cleared the ground on a couple of occasions in glorious fashion.

Those two sixes came in Prasidh Krsihna's first over of the innings.

The first one was pulled majestically over square-leg, and the second was lofted over the bowler's head.

India finished the chase in a hurry, in just 12 overs, with Shreyas Iyer scoring the winning shot off Jansen over mid-on.

SCOREBOARD

SOUTH AFRICA — 1ST INNINGS
55 in 23.2 overs

INDIA — 1ST INNINGS
153 in 34.5 overs

SOUTH AFRICA — 2ND INNINGS
Aiden Markram c Rohit b Siraj 106 *(103b, 17x4, 2x6)*, Dean Elgar c Kohli b Mukesh 12 (28b, 2x4), Tony de Zorzi c Rahul b Mukesh 1 (7b), Tristan Stubbs c Rahul b Bumrah 1 (14b), David Bedingham c Rahul b Bumrah 11 (12b, 2x4), Kyle Verreynne c Siraj b Bumrah 9 (7b, 1x4), Marco Jansen c & b Bumrah 11 (9b, 2x4), Keshav Maharaj c Shreyas b Bumrah 3 (4b), Kagiso Rabada c Rohit b Prasidh 2 (12b), Nandre Burger (not out) 6 (20b, 1x4), Lungi Ngidi c Jaiswal b Bumrah 8 (10b); Extras (lb-1, nb-5): 6; Total (in 36.5 overs): 176.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-37 (Elgar, 10.2 overs), 2-41 (de Zorzi, 12.1), 3-45 (Stubbs, 15.2), 4-66 (Bedingham, 17.6), 5-85 (Verreynne, 21.1), 6-103 (Jansen, 23.5), 7-111 (Maharaj, 25.2), 8-162 (Markram, 31.4), 9-162 (Rabada, 32.1).

INDIA BOWLING
Bumrah 13.5-0-61-6, Siraj 9-3-31-1, Mukesh 10-2-56-2, Prasidh 4-1-27-1.

INDIA — 2ND INNINGS (Target: 79)
Yashasvi Jaiswal c Stubbs b Burger 28 (23b, 6x4), Rohit Sharma (not out) 16 (22b, 2x4), Shubman Gill b Rabada 10 (11b, 2x4), Virat Kohli c Verreynne b Jansen 12 (11b, 2x4), Shreyas Iyer (not out) 4 (6b, 1x4); Extras (b-1, lb-2, w-6, nb-1): 10; Total (for three wkts. in 12 overs): 80.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-44 (Jaiswal, 5.4), 2-57 (Gill, 8.3), 3-75 (Kohli, 11.1).

SOUTH AFRICA BOWLING
Rabada 6-0-33-1, Burger 4-0-29-1, Jansen 2-0-15-1.

PoM: Siraj; **PoS:** Elgar & Bumrah.
India won by seven wickets to share the honours 1-1 in two-match series.

We saw what happened and how the pitch played: Rohit

P.K. Ajith Kumar
CAPE TOWN

Well begun... Jaiswal's blistering start ensured India didn't have to sweat it out in quest of victory. GETTY IMAGES

Rohit Sharma doesn't mind playing on a wicket like the one at the Newlands Cricket Ground, which produced the shortest Test in history, so long as everyone kept their mouth shut when it came to the pitches in India.

"We all saw what happened in this Test and how the pitch played," said Rohit, after leading India to a 1-1 draw in the two-match series. "It is dangerous, it is challenging. When they come to India, it will be challenging as well. When you're here to play Test cricket, you talk about Test cricket being the ultimate prize and pinnacle, and then you should stand by it."

He said the ball would turn in India from day one. "You should come and face it," he said. "When the pitch starts to turn, they keep talking about dust and the cracks. It's important to stay neutral, especially the match referees. I still can't believe the WC final pitch was rated below average. The ICC and the referees need to start looking into it. You have to rate pitches on how they see it and not based on countries... All I want to say is be neutral... And I would like to see how a pitch is rated. I would like to see the chart, how they rate pitches."

Looking back at India's victory inside two days, he said the team knew it was not going to be a high-scoring game. "Once we got them all out for 55, we spoke to the batters and told them we needed small contributions from them – apply themselves, get hit on your body, it's fine," he said. Our batters showed a lot of grit. The first innings lead was crucial. But we never thought we would lose six wickets for no run. That was disappointing."

He admitted there was some tension though India had to chase only a small target in the final innings. "Luckily we got off to a good start," he said. "Jaiswal played freely, that's something we discussed before going out to bat. Put the ball away."

Rohit praised Aiden Markram's century. "We had plans to get Markram out but he played a special innings," he said. "Jasprit Bumrah was all class. When we went out to bat, we were slightly ahead, but we still needed to apply ourselves and be fearless."

It was quite challenging for the batters, says Markram

Markram. GETTY IMAGES

Sports Bureau
CAPE TOWN

Aiden Markram on Thursday scored a remarkable century. It was probably one of the best Test hundreds in recent times, for, even making a fifty on the difficult track at Newlands would have been an achievement.

"The innings will rank highly (for me) in terms of the track, it was quite challenging for the batters," Markram said. "The conditions were tough. I tried to be as positive as I could be and there was considerable movement for the bowlers."

On a wicket like this, he said, one needed good fortune. "I played and missed a few times, and I was dropped as well," he said. "The ball was going up and down and not just in one direction. There might be one ball you will find too difficult to face and you might get out. So you had to try and score as much as possible."

Markram felt it might have been incredibly difficult if it was a player's first series. "It can't get tougher than this," he said.

South Africa's coach Shukri Conrad was critical of the pitch. "It was completely out of character. Everything goes out of the window when you get a surface like this. And it is a sad state when you need more luck than skills to survive in a Test match."

India will want to prove its mettle against ruthless Australia in T20I series

Putting in the hard yards: Smriti Mandhana practises at the D.Y. Patil Stadium. EMMANUAL YOGINI

AUSTRALIA IN INDIA

Shayan Acharya
NAVI MUMBAI

The last few weeks have been challenging for Harmanpreet Kaur. Even though the Indian team created history by defeating England and Australia in solitary Tests last month, the captain has had a poor outing with the bat in white-ball cricket.

After managing scores of 26, 9 and 6 in the three T20Is against England, Harmanpreet's woes continued in the just-concluded three-match ODI series against Australia, with a tally of 17 runs.

However, as the home team gears up for the T20I series against the same opponent, beginning on Friday at the DY Patil Stadium, the India captain is leaving no stone unturned to return to form.

Over the last couple of days, she worked with head coach Amol Muzumdar on the mental aspect and ensured she spent enough time at the nets.

> Every player loves communicating with him as he listens to them patiently
>
> **HARMANPREET** on coach Muzumdar

"Yesterday, we sat down to analyse my last few innings and he went through each and every delivery that I faced and wanted to find out what was going on in my mind at that time. He heard me patiently, and today I came and batted for an hour. He's giving important pointers to everyone, and all of us are trusting him," Harmanpreet said.

Just like the captain, the team, too, aims to move on from a humiliating 0-3 defeat in the ODIs, and start afresh. The ODIs exposed India's fielding vulnerabilities as several catches were dropped in crucial moments, and going ahead, the team needs to ensure it doesn't repeat similar mistakes.

India's pace bowlers Renuka Singh Thakur and Pooja Vastrakar struggled in the ODIs, while top batters – barring Jemimah Rodrigues, who had scores of 82, 44 and 25 – could not show resilience. And in a crucial T20I series, the host needs to improve its overall game.

Australia, as admitted by its leg-spinner Georgia Wareham, will look to be 'ruthless' against the home team. In the ODIs, young Phoebe Litchfield struck two fifties and a century, while Tahlia McGrath scored three fifties on a trot, and they would be hoping to carry forward that form.

The teams (from):
India: Harmanpreet Kaur (Capt.), Smriti Mandhana, Jemimah Rodrigues, Shafali Verma, Deepti Sharma, Yastika Bhatia, Richa Ghosh, Amanjot Kaur, Shreyanka Patil, Mannat Kashyap, Saika Ishaque, Renuka Singh Thakur, Titas Sadhu, Pooja Vastrakar, Kanika Ahuja, and Minnu Mani.
Australia: Alyssa Healy (Capt.), Darcie Brown, Heather Graham, Ashleigh Gardner, Kim Garth, Grace Harris, Jess Jonassen, Alana King, Phoebe Litchfield, Tahlia McGrath (vc), Beth Mooney (wk), Ellyse Perry, Megan Schutt, Annabel Sutherland, and Georgia Wareham.
Match starts at 7 p.m.

INBRIEF

Finch announces retirement from Big Bash League

Former Australia captain Aaron Finch announced his retirement from the Big Bash League (BBL) after 13 seasons with Melbourne Renegades. "Melbourne Renegades legend Aaron Finch will call time on his incredible Big Bash career, announcing this BBL 13 season will be his last," Renegades said in an official statement.

Divya cracks unbeaten 137 in Karnataka's big win

Divya Gnanananda (137 n.o.) powered Karnataka past Vidarbha in the BCCI senior women's one-day trophy at Bhubaneswar.

The scores: Karnataka 250/7 in 50 overs (Roshini Kiran 38, Divya Gnanananda 137 n.o., Pushpa Kiresur 35) bt Vidarbha 161 in 41.4 overs (D.D. Kasat 45, L.M. Inamdar 61, Pushpa Kiresur 3/25, Sahana Pawar 3/30).

Tisha excels for Vanguards against Mounts Club

Tisha (32 points) starred for Bangalore Vanguards against Mounts Club in the semifinal league of the State junior under-18 girls' basketball championship.

The results: Semifinal league: Boys: JSC 76 (Rohit 18, Harsh 12) bt Davangere BC 53 (Shivanna 13, Vishnu 10); PPC 73 (Varun 22, Nihal 21) bt HBR 54 (Aman 13, Sai Sanketh 12); PPC 75 (Varun 21, Aagneya 14) bt Davangere BC 44 (Vishnu 17, Darshan 14); JSC 79 (Priyanshu 27, Rohit 19) bt HBR 67 (Dishal 20, Sai Sanketh 18).
Girls: Bangalore Vanguards 81 (Tisha 32, Priyanka 21) bt Mounts Club 61 (Nidhi 24, Taarushee 16); DYES (Mysuru) 56 (Yashaswini 21, Aishwarya 10) bt JSC 48 (Kushi 16, Sanjana 11); Bangalore Vanguards 52 (Priyanka 20, Prashitha Shetty 10) bt JSC 51 (Sanjana 30, Aadhya 12); DYES (Mysuru) 70 (Yashaswini 26, Preeti 23) bt Mounts Club 50 (Daisy 18, Nidhi 11).

Rithvik and Poonacha go down in the quarterfinals

Rithvik Bollipalli and Niki Poonacha lost 7-6(4), 6-1 in the doubles quarterfinals to Arthur Fery and Joshua Paris of Great Britain in the $82,000 Challenger tennis tournament in Nonthaburi, Thailand, on Thursday.

LIVE TELECAST

Ultimate Kho-Kho: Sony Sports Ten 1 (SD & HD) & LIV, 7 & 8.30 p.m.
India Women vs Australia Women: 1st T20I, Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 7.30 p.m.
PKL: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 8 p.m. onwards.
Serie A: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 1.15 a.m. (Saturday).
Australia vs Pakistan: 3rd Test, day 4, Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 5 a.m. (Saturday).

A tournament that gives clues about players willing to cope with rigours of the longer format

The annual domestic competition, featuring 38 teams, set to commence on Friday at venues spread across the country

RANJI TROPHY

K.C. Vijaya Kumar

Away from the emotions attached to international cricket or the breathless hype that permeates the Indian Premier League, the Ranji Trophy will commence across the nation on Friday. Split into the Elite and Plate divisions and cumulatively featuring 38 teams, India's premier domestic tournament arrives without any fuss.

The List A fixtures and the IPL tussles do grease India's conveyor belt for limited overs' cricket. However, when it comes to playing in whites, it is the Ranji Trophy that often throws up clues about players willing to cope with the rigours of the longer format.

In near-empty venues, except when the game moves into rural outposts, the Ranji Trophy still has infinite charms. India's core group in Tests, is evolving. Just like it happened between Sourav Ganguly's retirement in 2008 and Sachin Tendulkar's glorious swansong in 2013, the present squad's key stars are also heading inexorably towards the exit door.

The process was already set in motion with Cheteshwar Pujara and Ajinkya Rahane being overlooked. With skipper Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli. R. Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja, all hovering around the mid-thirties, the road ahead will see gradual farewells. These massive boots, as and when they empty out, need to be filled and the Ranji Trophy presents an opportunity for many players to press their claims.

Self-appraisal

Even IPL talent scouts will keep an eye on the imminent contests, trying to glean multi-dimensional players with quick-silver styles. Be it defending champion Saurashtra, Mumbai with its hoary winning tradition or a rookie unit like Manipur, the Ranji circuit will offer a mirror to self-appraise and progress. It is the same trope for Hyderabad, now relegated to the Plate division.

To perform in near anonymity, with just a few scribes, the odd selector and some fans watching, may not do much for a player's adrenaline but surely it does offer a quiet space to introspect and improve even in this era with its nasty social-media undertones. Just as hope floats for the younger crop, the seniors too get a chance to reiterate their value be it a Pujara or a Rahane. There is Hanuma Vihari too, who at 30, has many summers of cricket left in him.

With the Elite final scheduled from March 10, the Ranji caravan will roll across India through the coming weeks. Hopefully the championship will also throw up some clues about the country's talent-base.

The Ranji journey

As the premier competition enters its 89th edition, a look at the doyens of domestic cricket

	Titles
Mumbai	41
Karnataka	8
Delhi	7
Madhya Pradesh	5
Baroda	5

Batters	Runs	Teams
Wasim Jaffer	12038	Mumbai, Vidarbha
Amol Muzumdar	9202	Bombay/Mumbai, Assam, Andhra
Devendra Bundela	9201	Madhya Pradesh

Bowlers	Wickets	Teams
Rajinder Goel	637	Patiala, Southern Punjab, Delhi, Haryana
S. Venkataraghavan	531	Tamil Nadu
Sunil Joshi	479	Karnataka

THE FIXTURES

Elite: Group-A: Saurashtra vs. Jharkhand (Rajkot); Maharashtra vs. Manipur (Solapur); Haryana vs. Rajasthan (Rohtak); Vidarbha vs. Services (Nagpur).
Group-B: Andhra vs. Bengal (Visakhapatnam); Bihar vs. Mumbai (Patna); Kerala vs. Uttar Pradesh (Alappuzha); Chhattisgarh vs. Assam (Raipur); Karnataka vs. Punjab (Hubballi).
Group-C: Chandigarh vs. Railways (Chandigarh); Gujarat vs. Tamil Nadu (Valsad); Tripura vs. Goa (Agartala).
Group-D: Uttarakhand vs. Madhya Pradesh (Dehradun); Jammu & Kashmir vs. Himachal Pradesh (Jammu); Baroda vs. Odisha (Vadodara); Delhi vs. Pondicherry (Delhi).
Plate: Nagaland vs. Hyderabad (Sovima); Arunachal Pradesh vs. Meghalaya (Anand); Mizoram vs. Sikkim (Nadiad).

Girona edges Atletico in thriller, stays level with Real

LA LIGA

Agence France-Presse
BARCELONA

Shock Spanish title challenger Girona snatched a remarkable 4-3 victory over Atletico Madrid to keep pace with Real Madrid at the top of La Liga on Wednesday.

After Los Blancos edged Real Mallorca 1-0 thanks to Antonio Rudiger's goal, Ivan Martin's stoppage time strike ensured the Catalan minnows matched Carlo Ancelotti's side on 48 points from 19 matches.

Alvaro Morata hit a hattrick for Atletico at Girona's tiny Montilivi stadium, but it was not enough as Martin found the top corner at the death to keep Girona firmly in the hunt for the title.

Valery Fernandez, Savinho and Daley Blind had netted for the hosts in a wild first half. Atletico, third, trails both Real and Girona by 10 points.

The results: Granada 2 (Uzuni 22, Zaragoza 70) bt Cadiz 0; Real Madrid 1 (Rudiger 78) bt Real Mallorca 0.
Celta Vigo 2 (Aspas 16-pen, Swedberg 90+6) bt Real Betis 1 (Ruibal 6); Girona 4 (Valery 2, Savio 26, Blind 39, Martin 90+1) bt Atletico Madrid 3 (Morata 14, 44, 54).

A tricky test awaits Karnataka as it takes on a confident Punjab

N. Sudarshan
HUBBALLI

Karnataka will begin its quest for a first Ranji Trophy crown since 2014-15 when it takes on Punjab in its opening Group-C match of the 2023-24 edition at the KSCA Rajnagar Stadium from Friday.

It will be a tricky first game for the home team. Though Punjab last won the Ranji Trophy way back in 1992-93, and hasn't gone past the semifinals since 2004-05, it recently broke its 30-year title drought by claiming the 2023-24 Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy. Skillsets may be different, but confidence is something Punjab will carry over.

There are also experienced hands in Mandeep Singh, Anmolpreet Singh and Siddharth Kaul, and upcoming talents such as Prabhsimran Singh and Nehal Wadhera. India pacer Arshdeep Singh is in the squad, but it remains to be seen if he plays, for the India-Afghanistan T20I series starts just three days after the contest here.

Karnataka will thus have no time to ease into the premier red-ball championship, and with tougher tests ahead against Gujarat and Tamil Nadu (both away), it needs a tone-setting performance.

The outfit is, however, in transition, especially in the spin bowling department. With Shreyas Gopal shifting allegiance to Kerala and K. Gowtham being eased out, the eight-time winner will have two debutants in Rohit Kumar (left-arm) and K. Shashikumar (offie), and Shubhang Hegde (left-arm), who has featured in just four First Class matches.

It will be up to the batters and speedsters to do the heavy lifting, and in this, last season should provide hope. Skipper Mayank Agarwal accumulated a chart-topping 990 runs, and was ably assisted by R. Samarth (662) and Manish Pandey (488).

Nikin Jose made 547 runs in his debut sojourn and the 23-year-old's reward was the vice-captain's role for the current campaign.

Prajwal Dev added to Indian Davis Cup team for Pakistan tie

TENNIS

Press Trust of India
BENGALURU

S.D. Prajwal Dev was on Thursday added to the Indian team as a replacement player for the upcoming Davis Cup tie in Pakistan.

Prajwal was not initially named in the squad for the World Group I play-off tie on February 3 and 4 in Islamabad, but got the call after reserve player Digvijay Singh pulled out of the tournament.

"I have been playing well in the ITF tournaments in India and abroad for the last two seasons. I view this opportunity as a reward for my consistency and I am quite elated to represent my country in the Davis Cup," Prajwal said.

Call up: Prajwal was included after reserve player Digvijay Pulled out. FILE PHOTO: VIJAY SONEJI

The All India Tennis Federation (AITA) is waiting for clearance from the Indian Government to travel to Pakistan.

Pooja Yadav wins 76kg crown by a whisker

WEIGHTLIFTING

Sports Bureau

Pooja Yadav secured a narrow victory to emerge as the women's 76kg champion in the National weightlifting championships at Itanagar on Thursday.

Pooja, who was second in both snatch and clean and jerk rankings, eventually won the title by totalling 204kg and beating Harmanpreet Kaur by one kg.

Jagdish Vishwakarma claimed the men's 96kg gold medal convincingly.

The results: Men: 96kg: 1. Jagdish Vishwakarma (SSCB) snatch 151kg, clean and jerk 189kg, total 340kg; 2. Harshad Wadekar (RSPB) 146kg, 188kg, 334kg; 3. Suresh Kumar Yadav (Odi) 133kg, 178kg, 311kg.
Women: 76kg: 1. Pooja Yadav (AIP) 91kg, 113kg, 204kg; 2. Harmanpreet Kaur (Chd) 89kg, 114kg, 203kg; 3. Pompi Saikia (Chd) 92kg, 108kg, 200kg.

Every cricketer wants to play red-ball cricket: Bishnoi

S. Dipak Ragav
VALSAD

Ravi Bishnoi made his international debut in 2022, and within two years, the leg spinner's graph quickly rose as he became the top-ranked bowler in T20 internationals last month. In 21 T20 matches, Bishnoi has 34 wickets at an average of 17.38 and a commendable economy rate of 7.14.

The youngster has pipped Yuzvendra Chahal as the lead leg-spinner in the shortest format and recently impressed with a man-of-the-series performance against Australia, making him a favourite for the T20 World Cup berth later this year in West Indies and USA.

Though seen as a white-ball bowler, Bishnoi is now looking to break out of the mould as he gets ready to play only his second First-Class game to help Gujarat start its campaign strongly against Tamil Nadu here on Friday. His Ranji debut came for Rajasthan in 2022 against Pondicherry, where he took two wickets before he switched sides this year.

Bishnoi. K. MURALI KUMAR

"I am really excited to play and give my 100%. Every cricketer wants to play red-ball cricket, and I am looking forward to helping my team to win," said Bishnoi to *The Hindu*.

"A lot of patience is required in this format, where you must bowl continuously and (keep hitting) in one place. You also have to be able to bowl long spells compared to one or two spells in white-ball cricket. The format also offers the time and overs to try new things, which will also help in my white-ball cricket," he added.

On becoming the top-ranked bowler, the 23-year-old said, "It gives good motivation to you and shows that hard work does pay off. At the same time, more than the rankings, the result for the team matters the most, and I look at whether my figures helped the team win."

While he has found success in the shorter formats with a very effective googly, there have been question marks about his leg-breaks, which Bishnoi said he is working on. "I have improved my lengths in the last two years. I know many people talk about it (leg-spin), which I respect, though I am not bothered about it (criticism). I am working on my leg-breaks, and hopefully, you will see some good things."

ICC amends stumping, concussion substitute rules

Press Trust of India
DUBAI

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has effected a notable change in playing conditions, as per which the umpires henceforth will only assess the side-on replays for stumping without considering the caught-behind scenario during the Decision Review System (DRS) referrals.

The ICC has also brought in more clarity in concussion replacement rule.

Now, the substitute player will not be permitted to bowl if the replaced player was suspended from bowling at the time of the concussion.

Similarly, the global governing body also has limited to four minutes the time set for on field injury assessment and treatment.

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Vidyaniketan PS (Ullal) enters the final

Vidyaniketan PS (Ullal) defeated Deva Matha Central School by five wickets in the semifinals of the KSCA Cup under-16 inter-school Division III cricket tournament.

The scores (semifinals):

Deva Matha Central School 136 in 44 overs (R. Adarsh 4/25) lost to Vidyaniketan PS (Ullal) 140/5 in 27.1 overs (Arjun Naik 52 n.o., Raghava Krishna 42, K.A. Aayush 3/41).

The Sports School 82 in 35.5 overs (S. Adhithyan 3/20, Atharv Deshpande 4/23) bt Poorna Vikasa Vidyalaya 71 in 24.4 overs (Jayaditya 3/21, Panni Sai 3/19).

Vickey scores the winner for Income Tax

Anthony Vickey's goal took Income Tax FC to a 1-0 win over Bangalore Eagles FC in the BDFA 'A' division football league.

The results: Income Tax 1 (Anthony Vickey 38) bt Bangalore Eagles 0.

Bangalore City 3 (Harholen Kipgen 28, Ngamninthang Kipgen 43, P. Abhishek 56) bt RWF 1 (Rajesh 39).

AGORC 7 (V. Surya 41, Sandeep Krishna 18, 20, 46, Samiulla Shaik 67, 76, 80) bt ADE 0.

Nikhil cracks century

Nikhil (107) helped Garfield Cricketers defeat BMS Engineering College in the KSCA Group I, Division V league.

The scores:

Garfield Cricketers 291 in 46.1 overs (Nikhil 107, B.N. Shishir 51) bt BMS EC 172 in 33.2 overs (Krishna Bhargav 53, Rahul Ghosh 4/13).

Head Quarters 206 in 40.1 overs (M. Ganapathi 42, H.C. Shashank 39, Vijay Subramanya 3/22, Swaroop 3/30) bt Mathikere 156 in 47.4 overs (Adithya Krishnan 42, Swaroop 32, H.C. Shashank 3/32, J. Kiran 4/26).

Karnataka Youth 275 in 38.3 overs (Abhishek Katagi 75, Ashwin Kumar 44, P. Ravikumar 70, B.S. Manjunatha 35, Manik Raj 4/54) lost to Bangalore Dynamos 276/3 in 47.3 overs (Lakshmikar Reddy 40, Raghuveer 35, Tejas Reddy 93 n.o., T. Amruthraj 91).

New National 240/8 in 50 overs (S. Shylesh 41, N. Abhiranjan 37, N. Sagar 36, Moinuddin Nasheed 48 n.o., Danish Akhtar 35) lost to Gary Cricketers 241/6 in 47.4 overs (Naresh 28, Pradhan Tejomay 40, R. Lokesh 35, Nimith Kumar 52 n.o., G. Rakesh 42).

Oriental 178 in 45.5 overs (Vinay 85 n.o.) lost to Shanthinagar Cricketers 182/5 in 36.3 overs (Tanmay Rout 39, K. Prajwal 84 n.o.).

Friends (Kolar) 167 in 45.3 overs (Manoj Yadav 31, D.V. Janardhan 30, A. Harish 32, K.A. Jathan 4/44) lost to Malleswaram SC 168/6 in 27.2 overs (Ananth Nadiger 27, N. Nishanth 26, Manoj Yadav 5/33).

Young Boys 192 in 31.3 overs (Karthik Gowda 49, G. Venkatachalapathy 38, Yashu 3/39) bt Government Arts College 114 in 28.4 overs (V. Varun 27, V. Venugopal 3/46, Rajan 3/13).

SSK 178 in 39.5 overs (D.K. Sagar 25, Shrihari Katekar 26, Koushik Rao 4/43, S. Sunil 4/39) bt Anekal Town 117 in 31.3 overs (Pavan Kumar 29).

Hindustan Friends edges out Coorg Blues

Hindustan Friends HC edged out Coorg Blues HC 5-4 in the KSHA-BHA 'A' division hockey league.

The results:

Hindustan Friends 5 (Lokesh 11, Yogesh 19, Rohith 23, Vetrivel 35, Suraj 40) bt Coorg Blues 4 (Suneil 16, 52, Hariharan 38, Arun 49).

Bellary District 5 (Rohith 23, Bharath 29, Karthik 46, L. Kumar 56, Prajwal 58) bt Bangalore United 2 (Harsha 52, P. Akash 57).